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Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

Daily on Israeli Plan To Invade Jordan 'in June'

JN0502190690 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 4 Feb 90 pp 1, 30

[Dispatch by Muhammad Haqqi from Washington and Fathi al-Barqawi from Tunis]

[Excerpts] It is now certain that the tripartite meeting among the Israeli and Egyptian foreign ministers and the U.S. secretary of state, which is a part of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's plan, will take place. The meeting is to prepare for the Palestinian-Israeli dialogue and reach an agreement on the formation of the two delegations to the dialogue, in addition to discussing other issues paving the way for the success of the dialogue. [passage omitted]

AL-ANBA' has read one page of an "extremely confidential" report submitted to Yasir 'Arafat, to the effect that Israel is preparing to invade Jordan in June through Wadi al-'Arabah south of the Dead Sea—an area where Israel recently said infiltrations and shooting against its border had taken place—after it has coordinated with influential parties in the U.S. Administration.

It is to be recalled here that Jordan's monarch, King Husayn, has warned several times that the border incidents cited by Israel are the result of hostile plans that are being hatched by several parties against Jordan.

Intifadah Arab Committee Issues Communique

LD0602104790 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] In its final communique, the Arab ministerial committee for supporting the Palestinian intifadah stresses its support to the Palestinian people's uprising according to the resolutions of the Algiers and Casablanca summits. For this purpose, a working plan has been approved for urgent action at both the Arab and international levels.

In its communique, the committee expressed its condemnation of the crimes committed daily by Israeli occupation authorities against Palestinian citizens and shrines. The committee also expressed its grave concern over the issue of the immigration of Soviet Jews, which constitutes a threat to the future of the occupied Arab territories.

Mubarak Proposes Iraqi-Syrian Meeting in Cairo

JN3101201290 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 30 Jan 90 p 21

[Excerpts] Cairo—Iraqi President Saddam Husayn yesterday concluded a two-day visit to Cairo during which he held talks with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak. [passage omitted]

AL-ITTIHAD has learned that President Mubarak proposed an Iraqi-Syrian meeting in Cairo to discuss relations. [passage omitted]

Informed political sources told AL-ITTIHAD in Cairo that the talks between the Egyptian and Iraqi presidents dealt with Iraqi-Syrian relations. President Mubarak proposed that Egypt undertake a reconciliatory role to normalize relations between Damascus and Baghdad. Mubarak noted that the features of this role will be defined after the two countries express a desire to improve the political atmosphere.

The sources added that President Mubarak stressed that this matter requires a halt in the hostile media campaigns and the arrangement of a meeting between officials from the two countries in Cairo.

The sources said the Iraqi president did not go over the details of the Egyptian proposal, noting that many issues must be settled before the political atmosphere can improve. The sources noted that in light of this, President Mubarak asked his foreign minister, 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, to discuss details with his Iraqi counterpart, Tariq 'Aziz, as the two presidents agreed to refer the issue to the Egyptian and Iraqi Foreign Ministries. [passage omitted]

Syrian-Iraqi Meetings 'Past Two Weeks' Reported

LD0402104990 Kuwait KUNA in English 0833 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 4 (KUNA)—Syrian-Iraq meetings were held respectively in Baghdad and Damascus in the past two weeks, Kuwaiti daily AL-ANBA' reported here Sunday. The paper, quoting diplomatic sources, added that the two countries delegates exchanged visits to Damascus and Baghdad to take a unified stance toward Turkey's decision to block the Euphrates River for one month to fill Ataturk Dam.

The sources noted that although the Syrian-Iraqi meetings centered on Turkey's decision "but it is a sign toward an improvement of relations between the two countries."

Earlier press reports said that Egypt resumed its mediation efforts between the two countries' presidents during the Iraqi president's recent trip to Cairo.

A Lebanese paper said in an unconfirmed report that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak had visited Damascus last month for this reason in addition to discuss the Syrian-Egyptian relations which witnesed a positive development following the resumption of flights betwen the two countries' national airlines.

Palestinian Affairs

Report, Comment on Israeli Bus Attack Continue

Gulf Paper Cited on Attack

JN0502211890 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] The Bahraini AKHBAR AL-KHALIJ paper has described the attack against the Zionist bus on the Ismailia-Cairo desert road yesterday evening as a heroic commando operation confirming that the Arab steadfast will still embodies honor and pride and rejects the logic of defeat and appeasement that the enemy has repeatedly sought to instill in Arab hearts. It also illustrates forcefully the shattering of Zionist illusions that had counted on turning the normalization of relations with Egypt into a model for consolidating Zionist hegemony over the region.

In today's editorial, the paper says that the courageous commando operation is important in many respects. First, because it vividly expresses the Egyptian people's rejection of all attempts to isolate Egypt from the Arab struggle against the Zionist presence in the Arab region. Second, because it ushers in a new Arab dawn in which the sun of Arab dignity will shine again following a pitch-dark night of Arab silence on Zionist belligerence and the barbaric Zionist practices in Lebanon, and against the heroes of the heroic intifadah. Third, the operation comes after Zionist arrogance and vanity had been reinforced by the influx of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine, thus it represents the only practical Arab reply to Shamir's illusions of what he terms Greater Israel.

MENA Cited on Attack

JN0502213090 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] The number of Zionists killed in the operation against the Zionist tour bus that was carried out last night on the Ismailia-Cairo desert road is now 11, following the deaths of three of the wounded. Meanwhile, a special transport plane of the Zionist air force arrived in Cairo and carried 17 of the wounded to occupied Palestine along with the bodies of the dead Zionists. The operation has spread terror inside the Zionist entity.

MENA reported earlier that six had died at the scene of the accident, while two died while being taken to hospital for treatment. MENA said: The accident resulted in the wounding of 17 more Zionists, adding that the attackers used automatic machineguns and four hand grenades in the attack on the Zionist vehicle that was carrying some 31 Zionist tourists.

PFLP Endorses Attack

LD0502172690 Kuwait KUNA in English 1606 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Tunis, Feb 5 (KUNA)—The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) said in a statement here Monday that the attack on the Israeli bus between Cairo and Ismailia yesterday "represents part of the Egyptian people and their national forces' struggle against normalization of relations (with Israel) and Camp David accords."

A spokesman for the front said the operation is "a real support for the Palestinian uprising."

The spokesman added that the PFLP denounces the voices which condemned the operation describing it as a terrorist attack and said "what deserves the denunciation is the state terrorism being practiced by the Zionist enemy against the Palestinian people and the Arab masses."

The front also said that "the real peace is not the peace of Camp David, but the peace that realizes the freedom and independence of the Palestinian people."

PLO Radio Reports Attack

JN0502210090 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1941 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] The death toll in the attack by masked gunmen on a passenger bus carrying Israelis near the city of Ismailia yesterday afternoon has mounted to 11 Israelis. Eighteen were wounded, some seriously.

Masked gunmen attacked the bus with automatic weapons and hand grenades at a point along the Ismailia-Cairo highway. They managed to disappear following the largest attack in six years against Israelis in Egypt.

Alleged Islamic Jihad Attacker's Message

JN0502184890 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1648 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Recording of an unidentified male voice, announced as that of "one of the heroes who carried out the attack on the Zionist bus on the Rafah-Ismailia road" in Egypt on 4 February, conveying "a message addressed to the Palestinian Arab people, the Arab nation, and the Islamic nation"—date not given]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Greetings and may God's peace and blessings be upon you. Beloved ones, it was necessary to deliver such a message. I wondered how to convey this message to you. In any case, I will say what I have to say.

Beloved ones, I am an ordinary person who has the right to voice his opinion and to express his sentiments. Other than this, I am a struggler and a mujahid in the Islamic Jihad Movement-Bayt al-Maqdis.

Beloved ones, I have not yet reached a position to merit God's love, or to be a patriotic person. I am still a child who crawls to reach his objective. God willing, I will strive to become a faithful person who loves God and a patriotic person in deeds and not only words. Beloved ones, I strive to become a patriotic person not only in words but also in deeds.

I address eloquent words to my beloved ones to tell them: Much love and many greetings as well as my pride in this lofty and steadfast people behind the iron bars inside, a people who insist on liberating their land, their holy places, and their honor. I also convey my love and greetings to this loyal, generous, and productive people wherever they may be. I convey my love and greetings to the stone-throwing children, to the good mothers, to the young and the old, to my loyal people, and to the loyal people of Palestine.

Beloved ones, do not stop. Nothing can stop you. Your stones have become bullets, bombs, and guns. Your chests, which are full of love, have become walls and barriers, and a huge volcano. Beloved ones, do not stop. Victory is only a few steps away. Continue and do not stop. Beloved ones, continue. Summer is coming. Let them dance with fear to the tune of your stones. We see them. We know them. They are foundlings and cowards. Beloved ones, do not stop.

I would like to tell world imperialism, the treasonous Arab leaders, the Zionists, 'Arafat, and others: What right do you have to represent the Palestinian people, and decide their fate? Shame on you, traitors.

The Palestinian people's self-determination can only be determined by the people themselves, and not by you. You will end in the dustbins of history. O filth, your peoples will not have mercy on you. You will know this now and in the future. I tell you that our state is from the sea to the river. Listen carefully, from the sea to the river and from the north to the south, and the Palestinian torch of patriotism will never die down. You must realize this and that there will be no homeland other than Palestine, that there will be no homeland other than Palestine. [repeats himself] O traitors, you are only inflated balloons that will be deflated, God willing. I tell the Zionists in Palestine and everywhere, we will fight you child, woman, man, and old man. This is because an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth, and he who begins injustice is the more heinous villain. We will not forget the massacres perpetrated against us. We will not forget Sabra and Dayr Yasin. We will not forget Shatila, Kafr Qasim, Qibyah, or al-Dawayimah. The blood of our people, the faithful and generous people, will not be wasted in vain. You just kill one and we will kill 1,000. We will pursue you everywhere, even if you go to the moon. You will not escape punishment. We will pursue you however long it takes. You are here and we are here, and bombs, swords, and bullets are between us. There will be no peace or negotiations with you, so do whatever you like. God is with us.

I appeal to the Palestinian organizations in Syria and Lebanon, I tell them: O my beloved ones and brothers, close your ranks, because words and propaganda are no longer useful or productive. Armed struggle is our way to Palestine, armed struggle is our way to Palestine. [repeats himself] Come on my beloved ones, let us make our actions be for the sake of God. Let us uphold God's instructions. Come on my brothers-in-arms and my beloved ones.

I also make another appeal to the Muslim youths in Palestine. March ahead, my beloved ones, because your stones are great. Enhance your methods. Continue with everything, with knives, with sticks, with bullets, with everything. March ahead and do not stop. Your pure blood will not flow in vain. You determine your future. Come on my beloved ones, seek help from God, for he is Almighty. Victory is only from God and we rely on him. May God's peace and blessings be upon you.

PLO Envoy to CSSR on Relations With Israel

LD0502214890 Prague Television Service in Czech 1830 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] The murder of Israeli tourists was resolutely denounced at a news conference held in Prague today by Samih 'Abd-al-Fattah, Palestinian ambassador to Czechoslovakia.

In the course of meetings with Czechoslovak and foreign newsmen he focused mainly on topical issues linked to solving the Near East crisis. He voiced concern at the resumption of relations with Israel in this period and the way this is carried out, saying it will be understood by Israel as an expression of readiness to conform to the lasting occupation of the Palestinian and Arab territories.

The ambassador welcomed Czechoslovakia's willingness to join in the mediating efforts aimed at solving the Palestinian issue. The coming visit to Prague by Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens could be instrumental in reaching this objective.

Samih 'Abd-al-Fattah also reported that Yasir 'Arafat has accepted President Vaclav Havel's invitation to visit Czechoslovakia. The date will be specified through diplomatic channels.

'Bloc Country' Said To Give Israel PLO Files

LD0402091790 Kuwait KUNA in English 0719 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Kuwait, Feb 4 (KUNA)—A Kuwaiti daily Sunday, quoting Palestinian sources, revealed that Israel had received from the security apparatus of an Eastern bloc country a long list of Palestinian names, files and documents of different PLO factions.

Daily AL-RA'Y AL-'AMM, said that these Palestinian groups had received a military training course in this

Eastern bloc country which was one of the countries that greatly sympathizes with Palestinians, topped by the PLO.

The East European country, which the paper declined to identify, had given military and security assistance to different Palestinian groups, the source added.

Israel had received a full chart with the names of Palestinians who had received military training courses, the chart includes full details about the PLO's activities there.

The sources said that senior officers in that country had informed Palestinian leaders of the issue and warned them that Israeli is striving to conclude similar steps with other Eastern bloc countries.

Lately, a military cooperation agreement was reached between the Eastern bloc country and Israel.

Algeria

Foreign Minister Departs on Tour 5 Feb

LD0502235490 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GBMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Sid Ahmed Ghazali left today for Tunis to participate in the work of the Arab League committee for supporting the Palestinian uprising. After that he will visit Tripoli, Kuwait, and Abu Dhabi.

In Tripoli, he will deliver a message from the head of state to Col Mu'ammar al-Qadhdahfi. After paying an official visit to Kuwait, the foreign minister will go to Abu Dhabi to deliver a message from President Chadli Benjedid to United Arab Emirates President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan.

Ben-Bella Contemplating Return From Exile

LD0202114590 Kuwait KUNA in English 1058 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Paris, Feb 2 (KUNA)—Algerian independence leader, Ahmed Ben-Bella is contemplating his return to Algeria after nine years in exile, it was reported here Friday. The return of Ben-Bella would be prompted by a decision taken by President Chadli Bendjedid to allow all political leaders in exile to return freely to Algeria.

According to "LIBERATION" daily, soon after the announcement of Bendjedid's decision, the "Algerian Democratic Movement" of Ben-Bella lodged a request of official recognition at the Interior Ministry.

Ben-Bella has been in exile in France since 1981, where he staged a series of anti-regime campaigns, drawing himself as the legitimate leader of the country.

President Bendjedid Receives Mahfud Nahnah

LD3001123290 Algiers APS in English 1000 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] Algiers, 30/1/90 (APS)—In the frame of his contacts with political parties and associations, President Chadli Bendjedid received Monday [29 January] the chairman of the national association "El Irshad wal Elah" [Guidance and Reform], Mahfud Nahnah. Following this audience, Nahnah said the meeting with the head of state was marked with frankness and that he discussed with the president of the Republic question of political reforms and the way to materialize them, which, he said, requires time.

Asked about the relations between "El Irshad wal Elah", the "Islamic Salvation Front" and the "League of Islamic Diwa the other Islamic associations in Algeria" [quotations as received], Nahnah said the action in favor of religion and the defence of national constant principles are the common denominator. We have underlined during our meeting with President Chadli Bendjedid the necessity to work for the defence of constant components of the nation, Nahnah added.

Flooded Ouargla Region Declared 'Disaster Area'

LD2401212590 Algiers Television Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Excerpt] The region of Ouargla is declared a disaster area. This is due to the strong floods which swept the region recently. Huge losses have been recorded, but life has started to return to normal. Here is a dispatch by colleague Bakhlili Slimane:

[Slimane] The city of Ouargla has been declared a disaster area after being hit with rain and strong winds the past 3 days. According to the relevant authorities in the province, the bad weather has so far completely destroyed 298 homes; damaged 751 homes; and made 394 citizens homeless. Sixteen hundred citizens have left their homes and 70,000 hectares of farms and nurseries have been damaged. [passage omitted]

Cooperation Agreements Signed With USSR

Public Works Machinery

LD0202165690 Algiers Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Excerpt] In the field of trade cooperation between Algeria and the USSR, a new contract was concluded yesterday in Moscow between the National Public Works Equipment Company and the Soviet Techno-Export Company. The contract was signed on the Algerian side by Mr Saighi, director general of the National Public Works Equipment Company, and on the Soviet side by the vice-chairman of Techno-Export. The contract includes the delivery of public works machinery such as cranes, bulldozers, compressors, and [word indistinct]. [passage omitted]

Maritime Transport

LD2101020790 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 20 Jan 90

[Excerpt] At home, the minister of transportation, Al-Hadj Khediri, and [name indistinct], the Soviet deputy minister of Maritime Fleet, signed the minutes of their talks today in the presence of the Soviet ambassador to Algeria. The document concerns the ways and means of deepening cooperation in the maritime field between the two countries.

Within this context, it was agreed on underpinning the participation of Algerian ships in the transport between the two countries and on the use of modern technology in transport through the use of cargo ships, specialized ships, and improving the treatment of [words indistinct] for both countries. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Reportage, Reaction on Bus Attack Continue

Search for Attackers in Progress

NC0602080890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2245 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 5 Feb (MENA)—AL-AHRAM reports in tomorrow's edition [6 February] that the Egyptian security organs are searching the city of Shibin al-Qanatir for the perpetrators of the attack on the bus carrying Israeli tourists on the Ismailia road yesterday.

The security organs have found a furnished apartment that the culprits rented in Shibin al-Qanatir. In the apartment, the police discovered a Jordanian passport belonging to a Palestinian who entered the country on 21 January.

The security organs are searching the area for him and for his Jordanian colleague, who is of Palestinian origin and was living in the same apartment. Photographs of these two persons have been printed and distributed to all police sections after investigations have established that they were the perpetrators of the crime. It is expected that the security organs will arrest the two persons at any moment.

AL-AHRAM says that some persons who may have a connection with this crime, either by abetting or participating in it, have been identified.

AL-AHRAM says that the owners of a tourist company have affirmed that an Arab—most likely a Palestinian or Jordanian—called Akram Iyhab, born in 1956, who entered the country on 21 January, rented the Peugeot which was used in perpetrating the incident a week ago. The security organs believe that the name used by the person who hired the car is not his real name and that he is carrying a forged passport, No 7774.

The security organs have carried out an extensive survey of the foreigners who are renting furnished apartments in Cairo, al-Jizah, and several other governorates as part of their search for the culprits.

Meanwhile, security commanders have stated that the armed attack was very carefully planned. It is likely, they added, that the culprits had been monitoring the movement of the bus since its arrival from al-'Arish via the Rafah crossing point, and that they were fully aware of the normal route of the bus. They therefore chose to carry out their attack at a time when no one would be able to pursue or identify them.

'Important Information' Discovered

NC0602112490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1036 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 6 Feb (MENA)—Security services continue their intensive efforts to track down the perpetrators of the attack on the Israeli tourist bus on the Cairo-Ismailia road 2 days ago, in which 11 Israelis were killed and 20 injured.

A responsible security source said that the security services have obtained important information that will tighten the dragnet around the culprits. Details of this information will be made public later on, he said.

Palestinian Suspect Arrested

NC0502213490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2100 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 5 Feb (MENA)—A responsible security source has told MENA that today the security organs arrested one of the criminals who perpetrated the attack on the Israeli passengers of the tourist bus.

The source disclosed that the accused is a Palestinian who arrived in the country 2 weeks ago along with his accomplices in the incident. The source added that the security organs are continuing their efforts to arrest his criminal accomplices.

The source said that the Peugeot used in the incident is the property of Egyptian national Mrs Fathiyah Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Al, who leases the car to tourist companies for use by tourists. The culprits hired the car from a tourist company several days ago and used it in committing the crime.

[Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic at 2100 GMT on 5 February carries a report which adds: "The death toll from the Israeli tourist bus incident has risen to 11 after an injured woman, who had been treated in Heliopolis hospital, died as she was being flown from Cairo to Tel Aviv along with 21 other wounded people."]

Islamic Jihad Threatens More Attacks

NC0602115690 Paris AFP in English 1136 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, Feb 6 (AFP)—Egyptian police were Tuesday close to the capture of two Palestinians suspected of having opened fire on a tour bus and killing nine Israelis, the government newspaper AL-AHRAM reported here. [passage omitted]

The raid, which caused deep anguish in Israel and threatened to hamper Middle East peace efforts, was claimed Monday by Islamic Jihad, a Moslem fundamentalist group active in the Israeli-occupied territories.

The group on Tuesday threatened new "anti-Zionist" attacks, warning in an anonymous message telephoned to AFP in Amman that young Islamic militants "throughout the world were preparing to lead violent and painful operations to avenge our people."

It said Sunday's attack was "a response to the killing of our people in the occupied territories and to those who receive Jews in Egypt and ally themselves with the enemy of our nation and our religion." [passage omitted]

Soviet Envoy Condemns Attack

NC0502182890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 5 Feb (MENA)—Gennadiy Kirillovich Zhuravlev, Soviet ambassador in Cairo, has condemned the attack on the Israeli tourist bus. In a statement to MENA, he said that such terrorist actions indicate there are radical elements everywhere, on both the Arab and Israeli sides.

The Soviet ambassador in Cairo ruled out the PLO's participation in such an operation. He expressed his belief that there are some elements who may have no interest in attaining a peaceful settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict. He indicated that there are some elements interested in such operations. He said all possibilities are open to the elements who could be behind this operation.

PLO Envoy to Cairo Denounces Incident

NC0502152290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1424 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 5 Feb (MENA)—In a statement released today, Palestinian Ambassador in Cairo Sa'id Kamal denounced the attack yesterday on the bus carrying Israeli tourists on the Ismailia-Cairo desert road. He emphasized that the Palestinian denunciation stems from the PLO's principled and firm stand against all forms of terrorism, and against tampering with innocent people's lives, despite the Israeli authorities' organized terrorism against the Palestinians. The statement also said that acting in this way at this particular stage only serves the enemies of a just peace, who are acting against the will of the international community and of all mankind. They are trying to strike at and obstruct the serious peace endeavors in our region, and the Palestinian people's aspirations for freedom and independence.

Commentary on 'Inhuman' Attack

NC0502160890 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1240 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Bahiy-al-Din Shu'ayb commentary: "Cursory Notes on an Inhuman Incident"]

[Text] No doubt the inhuman incident involving a group of Israeli tourists near Ismailia is a form of irresponsible terrorism that endangers people's lives and threatens all desires for peace.

In retrospect, we find that those who perpetrated or planned the incident did not take into consideration that such an incident might inflict more grave damage than bring gains for the culprits; that is, if any one does indeed benefit from terrorism.

The incident's planners and perpetrators did not take into account that the incident has made Egypt's internal security situation more tense—and Egypt does not need this at this critical stage in its persistent efforts to rebuild its economic and developing structures.

Such an irresponsible act is a direct blow to all the government's measures to revive tourism in Egypt. In reporting on this incident, the media will portray the Middle East as a jungle in which no one can control the beasts grazing therein. Naturally, this does not reflect the truth in any way. However, the incident can not portray anything else to a person who wants to attribute characteristics to the Arabs that are very different from their discipline, traditions, and noble traits.

Such an incident shows that those who planned and perpetrated it do not have a shred of manhood or discipline. This is because he who molests innocent, elderly, defenseless people and attacks them with guns and bombs is the lowest type of coward. If the incident's planners are using this method to defend a political ideology, we believe they are just as politically naive as they are cowardly.

This incident took place as the Palestinian cause is trying to find a solution that would result in the Palestinian people's obtaining their rights. Such an incident will give the Israeli radicals trump cards with which to play at the table of intransigence. The least they will say is that peace with the PLO is out of question because its enmity to Israel is well-known. The Israelis will say that if Israelis are treated this way in Egypt, to which they are linked with a peace treaty, what will be the case if they were to leave the West Bank and Gaza Strip to a Palestinian state only a few hundred meters away from Israel.

Thus the Israeli radicals will have something to say to everyone who asks them to be less intransigent, to end their rejection of the PLO, or to accept a Palestinian delegation with any PLO member participating.

Also, such an incident may subject the inhabitants of the West Bank and Gaza to a severe retaliatory measure, which no one in the world will dare to denounce because public opnion will be sympathetic to the victims of the incident involving the Israeli tourist group.

Also, those who planned and perpetrated the act are putting the Egyptian leadership in a very difficult position. How can Egypt perform its active and positive role in the peace process when this incident took place on its territory, killing a number of Israelis? Egypt will be making make many efforts to calm the situation and the people at a time when events are taking place at an astonishing speed.

This incident will also distract attention from Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel. The Israeli radicals and non-radicals alike will find an excuse to defend themselves because they will claim that the new emigration is necessary to ensure that Israel is kept safe from Arab terrorism.

Thus we see that those who planned and perpetrated the act did not render any service to the Palestinian cause at all. Rather, they inflicted great harm on this cause. The effects of this harm may not be fully realized for a long time. Logic dictates that the peace process in the region be expedited to block the way to anyone standing in the way of the settlement. However, the angry and tense people may need some time to understand the situation more objectively so that this incident will not have any effect on the efforts to achieve comprehensive peace and security in the region.

Editorials Denounce Incident

NC0602100990 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0700 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 6 Feb (MENA)—In their editorials today, the Cairo newspapers denounce the attack on the Israeli tourist bus which took place on the Ismailia road.

Describing the incident as regrettable, AL-AHRAM Chief Editor Ibrahim Nafi' says that it serves the aims of others rather than those of our Arab homeland. He then asks: What do the perpetrators want? Do they want to harm the peace efforts that are being made? Do they want to give an excuse to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, who is desperately rejecting contact with any of the PLO elements, and is prevaricating and procrastinating about the start of the negotiations?

AL-JUMHURIYAH Chief Editor Mahfuz al-Ansari notes that the incident took place a few days before the tripartite meeting in Geneva between the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers and the U.S. secretary of state, at which the basis is to be laid for starting the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations in Cairo, with Egyptian participation. He adds that the incident was no more than an attempt to sabotage the peace efforts, stressing that it will not affect the sincere efforts being made to establish peace in the Middle East region.

In their editorials, AL-AKHBAR and AL-JUMHURIYAH write that Cairo exposed the dimensions of this criminal action from the first moment and placed it in its proper place with the statement issued by the presidential office, which expressed regret and said that that the action was targeted against the efforts to give an impetus to the peace process in the Middle East.

AL-JUMHURIYAH writes: While stressing yet again today the principle of rejecting terrorism, Egypt is saying that no attempt by terrorists will force it to go back on this belief. It adds that violence will only breed more violence and stresses the need to rally the efforts of all parties to achieve a just and comprehensive peace and end the bitter conflict in this vital part of the world.

AL-AKHBAR writes that this ugly incident, which every Egyptian citizen denounces, throws heavy shadows on the motives behind the inhuman attack on an Israeli tourist bus. It adds that had the perpetrators of the incident been real strugglers they would have stood alongside the heroes of the Palestinian intifadah in their heroic struggle inside the occupied territories.

Fatah Envoy on Peace Efforts

NC0502192890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 5 Feb (MENA)—Zudhi al-Qidrah, Fatah representative in Cairo, has emphasized that the PLO continues to adhere to the Cairo declaration in which Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat announced the renunciation of terrorism and pledged continued efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region.

In a statement to MENA, the Palestinian official said that the attack on the tourist bus carrying a number of Israeli tourists and the Israel officials' reactions to this attack will not make the PLO abandon this stand.

Al-Qidrah said: This incident and the systematic terrorism Israel is practicing against our people in our occupied territory should prompt everyone to seriously and sincerely seek to achieve peace and to make Israel end its intransigence, which is regarded as the principal obstacle to attaining peace and making the region safe and secure.

Continued Dialogue 'Logical' Response

NC0502215790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Bahiy-al-Din Shu'ayb commentary carried within the "Talking Magazine" program]

[Text] The Likud Bloc has decided to postpone the party meeting which was scheduled for Wednesday [7 February] because of the incident involving an Israeli tourist group on the Ismailia-Cairo road. The meeting was originally intended to resolve the disputes between the Sharon-Moda'i-Levi faction and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir over ways to settle the Middle East crisis and Shamir's plan for elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The Israeli prime minister had planned to obtain a vote of confidence as prime minister and head of the Likud Bloc in Wednesday's session so that he would be able to pursue his policy on holding elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The postponement of the Likud Bloc meeting means that all the bloc's leaders believe that this is not the right time to escalate differences among themselves over Israel's foreign policy. Naturally, the general atmosphere inside Israel will delay acceptance of any official invitation the U.S. secretary of state may extend for holding a tripartite conference to be attended by the foreign ministers of Egypt, Israel, and the United States.

If Israel believes that, because of the tourist bus incident, this is not the time for any political move, we wish to say that wisdom dictates that the voice of reason should drown out the voice of anger. Furthermore, we wish to add that this or any other similar incident must in no way distract us from the cause of genuine peace to ensure security in the region and a spirit of brotherhood and cooperation in all fields.

We wish to emphasize that Egypt condemns this painful incident and views it as a criminal act that violates all ethical values and man's right to security and safety anywhere. We also wish to emphasize that Egypt will not waver in its pursuit of the culprits until justice is done because such an incident cannot go unpunished.

While it condemns this incident, as it condemns all forms of terrorism against innocent people, Egypt at the same time believes that pressing ahead with the peace process is the logical and only response to all those who seek to impede the peace process.

Mubarak Messages Conveyed to Bush, Gorbachev

NC0402201490 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1325 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 4 Feb (MENA)—Today President Muhammad Husni Mubarak sent urgent messages to U.S. President George Bush and Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev concerning recent developments in the Middle East. This was stated by 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

'Abd-al-Majid summoned the U.S. charge d'affaires in Cairo and handed him President Mubarak's message to President Bush, while Dr Usamah al-Baz, Foreign Ministry first under secretary and director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, summoned the Soviet ambassador and handed him Mubarak's message to Gorbachev.

Meanwhile, MENA has learned that yesterday 'Abd-al-Majid sent a message to Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens on the same subject. The message was handed to the Israeli ambassador in Cairo.

MENA has learned that the three messages focus on the negative and grave effects from settling Soviet and other immigrants to Israel in the occupied Arab territories and the impact of such a development on the march of peace and on the security and stability of the region.

MENA has learned from highly placed diplomatic sources that President Mubarak is holding intensive consultations with Arab kings and presidents on this subject. Egypt is also contacting the EC leadership, which on 2 February issued a statement criticizing the settlement of new immigrants in the occupied Arab territories.

Daily on Jewish Emigration, Tripartite Meeting

JN0602103090 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 3 Feb 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Encouraging News"]

[Text] The mass emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and the attempts to settle them in the occupied Arab territories is still being discussed on various political levels. This requires quick and organized Arab action. This action could take the form of an emergency Arab summit as called for by the Arab Cooperation Council's parliamentary committee, or of high level envoys being dispatched to the USSR, the United States, and the UN Security Council's five permanent member states, which Arab diplomacy has actually begun to do.

Of course, we should not be satisfied with denunciations, whatever their source, of this settlement move that harms the major Arab cause. In fact, action should continue to save the region from the dangers posed by the collapse of peace efforts, whose price will be paid by the whole world, including Israel itself, whose government insists on adding fuel to the fire, obstructing peace efforts, and defying the voice of reason.

This is why the Arab public opinion receives with hope reports from Washington on the progress being achieved in the contacts on holding the tripartite meeting among the U.S., Israeli, and Egyptian foreign ministers, on Baker's announcement before Congress that Resolutions 242 and 338 constitute the basis for a comprehensive solution, and on the U.S. State Department's emphasis that peace and stability in the Middle East constitute a priority for the U.S. Administration.

In all cases, what counts is Arab solidarity and coordination.

Gorbachev's Emigration Policy Criticized

JN0602090690 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 4 Feb 90 p 10

["Dividing Lines" column by Samir Rajab]

[Text] Rumors are being circulated about the resignation of Mikhail Gorbachev as CPSU general secretary. Immediately, U.S. President George Bush contacted him to assure himself that his "communist" friend is still in position, and in fact to advise him not to even to think of resigning, because the United States will never find a communist who is so dazzled by the capitalist system as Gorbachev!!

Gorbachev is opening the doors wide to allow Jews to emigrate to Israel. He does not stop at this point, but places his planes at their disposal to transport them and to save them any trouble!!

Of course, the Israeli Government has no choice but to admire this "noble" stand by the Soviet President, who spoke too much about the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. It sent him its warmest thanks. At the same time, it asked Washington to honor the USSR and grant it most-favored-nation status.

All this is happening while the Arabs are, as usual, remaining silent. Experience has taught us that the Arabs do not move until it is too late although the issue is very serious. I do not know whether the Arabs were aware of or ignored this issue.

The influx of Soviet Jews means that Israel is determined to expand the establishment of settlements. This threatens the peace process which is what the Israelis have been dreaming of for years. This action by Gorbachev also proves beyond any doubt that slogans raised by the USSR on support for the "Arab cause" are empty slogans that do not reflect the truth regardless of justifications. This is because the Soviets, just like the Americans, have for a long time believed that their interests lie with Israel, and not with the Arabs.

Also, the new revolutionaries in Romania and Hungary, who claim liberation from their subservience to Moscow, are no more than "pale copies" of the original communists who still glorify the principles of Karl Marx and Lenin. Otherwise, how can we interpret the reasons behind these offers that are being made to Moscow by the Romanian, Hungarian, and also the Yugoslav airlines, in which they express their readiness to exert their "modest efforts" to contribute to the emigration process?

What is strange is that despite this, some voices in Israel strongly criticize the USSR due to its government's procrastination over the abrogation of the 1974 law that imposes restrictions on the Soviet Jews' emigration. This is despite the fact that this law is now before the Kremlin for revision in order to cancel all previous restrictions, and even to allow the inauguration of direct air flights between Moscow and Tel Aviv. Of course, the new amendment will greatly serve the USSR economy, especially since President Bush's administration has recently leaked statements to the effect that after these amendments have been made, the U.S. aid to the USSR will be increased, and that huge incentives will be given to exporters to the U.S. market.

Thus, the threads that help Shamir continue his policy are being interweaved, and the Arabs still have nothing in common. All that we have is the PLO sufficing itself to say that the Soviet Jews' emigration to Israel constitutes a violation of the Palestinian human rights, and that it will ask Moscow, the PLO's friend, to intercede with Washington to allow these Jews to settle on U.S. territory instead of in Israel.

Emigration Seen as 'Catastrophe' for All Arabs

JN0602095090 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 31 Jan 90 p 5

[Editorial: "The Catastrophe Will Not Befall the Palestinians Alone"]

[Text] When we call on the entire Arab nation to confront the new Zionist conspiracy which Israel has actually begun to implement through U.S. support, to settle hundreds of thousands of Jews from the USSR and the East European states in the Palestinian Arab land, we are trying to direct attention to a catastrophe that is being directed against the entire Arab homeland, and not only against the Palestinian people, although they themselves will receive the first shock as a result of this evil plan, which is being prepared by evil people in an attempt to obstruct any efforts to return the occupied territories to their legitimate owners.

Any far-sighted Arab politician can easily realize the dangers that will be posed to the Arab states that are adjacent to Israel if the latter is allowed to settle these huge crowds of Jewish immigrants in the Jewish settlements that the Tel Aviv authorities established in the occupied Arab territories so as to use them as a means to justify their refusal to withdraw from these territories and a pretext to carry out subsequent steps toward expelling the remaining Palestinians from these territories. By doing so, Israel will make an important step toward fulfilling the old dream of Greater Israel, stretching from the Nile to the Euphrates.

Shamir and his companions seek to achieve more than one objective by this new Jewish influx. On the one hand, he seeks to abort all current peace efforts and to turn the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip into a lasting fait accompli, and on the other hand, to pave the way for any future Israeli expansion on the pretext of needing more territory after the increased number of Jews in the limited Israeli territories. It is the same pretext Hitler and his Nazi regime used to occupy Germany's neighboring states.

If the Arab leaders do not move quickly to confront this danger that is posed to the entire Arab nation, then they will have no one but themselves to blame if, God forbid, the catastrophe occurs.

Butrus Ghali Comments on ANC, PLO Recognition

NC0202194890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Cairo, 2 Feb (MENA)—Egypt has underlined its readiness to extend every possible assistance to the South African liberation movements in their new dialogue with the South African Government, just as it assisted them in their armed struggle.

Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, said this while commenting today on the South African Government's decision to lift the 30-year ban on the African National Congress [ANC]. He added that Egypt, in its capacity as founder member of the OAU and its current chairman, considers this to be a positive step toward eliminating racial discrimination in Africa.

In an exclusive statement to MENA, Dr Ghali said that leaders from the South African movement will arrive in Cairo in the next few days to hold talks with officials here on the new policy that the OAU must follow toward South Africa in light of the changes. He added that on 12 February Egypt will for the first time host a meeting of the new session of the OAU's Coordination Committee for the Liberation of Africa. [passage omitted]

Concluding his statement, Dr Ghali said that the South African Government's recognition of the ANC as a liberation movement should be an example for Israel which, he said, should recognize the PLO, deal with it, and hold a dialogue. This would give impetus to the peace process and enable the just solution for the Palestinian problem to be found so that peace can be established in the Middle East, he asserted.

Ghali Returns From Paris After Treatment

NC3101204390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2019 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 31 Jan (MENA)—Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, returned to Cairo from Paris this evening, after completing his medical treatment in the French capital. The last medical tests conducted yesterday confirmed that he was totally cured of the liver abscess from which he had been suffering. [passage omitted]

Israel's 'Fragile' Policy on Palestinians Viewed

JN3101154790 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 29 Jan 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Clamor for Cover"]

[Text] That the statement made in Cairo by Shim'on Peres, Israel's deputy prime minister and leader of the Labor Party, should precipitate a political storm within the Israeli Government only proves that Israeli policy on the Palestinian issue, which appears to be firm, is in fact fragile. In other words, there is no consensus within the Israeli leadership on the details of this policy because all this hysterical reaction from the Shamir government was created when Peres cast a small stone at one of the details of this policy.

Peres did not speak from his ministerial position but in his capacity as leader of the Labor Party. He said that he was certain that President Mubarak and the Egyptian Government knew of his party's position and that he did not object to two Palestinian deportees participating in the Palestinian delegation, "which is supposed to talk with Israel."

This was the sentence that caused the anguish of the officials in Shamir's office, of the Likud bloc, and of all the extremists, prompting them to deny in very strong terms the existence of any such clause in the current policy, aver that it completely contradicts the Israeli peace initiative, wonder who "authorized" Peres to utter such a lie, and accuse him and Rabin, who is also a Labor Party figure and once made similar statements in the United States, of undermining the ruling coalition by overstepping their legal prerogatives as members of the government.

This is not the first time that this kind of thing happens. Indeed, the modus operandi now is to build a clamor around any official abroad, either by applauding the positions he takes or by denouncing his actions with the ultimate aim of serving—they think—the policy of intransigence and rigidity.

Despite the fact that the issue is clear and that the Labor leaders speak sometimes in the name of the party and sometimes in the name of the government, while stressing their position in both cases, the Likud leadership has always intentionally confused the two, creating a brouhaha to hide the facts; namely, that its policy, which it claims to be firm—or rigid, to be more precise—is in fact blowing with the wind.

Soviet Ambassador: Mubarak To Visit USSR in Mar

NC0502142290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1306 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Cairo, 5 Feb (MENA)—Gennadiy Zhuravlev, Soviet ambassador in Cairo, has confirmed that President Husni Mubarak will pay his first visit to the Soviet Union in March, as scheduled.

In a news conference he held here today, the Soviet ambassador denied reports that the trip had been postponed until a later date. MENA has learned that the visit will begin on 14 March.

Zhuravlev stressed that the Soviet leadership and government attach great importance to President Mubarak's visit, which will mark the zenith of Egyptian-Soviet cooperation and will generate a strong drive to promote the bilateral relations further in all fields.

The Soviet ambassador noted that arrangements have been made to organize an exhibition of Egyptian goods in the Soviet Union during President Mubarak's visit to Moscow. He added that the Soviet Union is working on a program for economic, scientific, and cultural cooperation with Egypt until the year 2000.

Mubarak Receives Jordanian Minister, Invitation

NC0502180390 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1518 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, 5 Feb (MENA)—Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, Jordanian minister of information and acting foreign minister, left Cairo for Baghdad this afternoon at the end of a visit of several hours, during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak.

He disclosed that he had conveyed a message from King Husayn of Jordan to President Mubarak, containing an invitation for Mubarak to attend the second session of the Arab Cooperation Council supreme committee, scheduled to open in Amman on 24 February. [pasage omitted]

Iraqi Education Minister Arrives on Visit

*NC0502220990 Cairo MENA in English 2055 GMT
5 Feb 90*

[Text] Cairo, Feb. 5 (MENA)—Iraqi Minister of Higher Education Dr. Mundhir al-Shawi arrived here tonight for a three-day visit at the invitation of Egyptian Minister of Education Fathi Surur.

The Iraqi minister said upon his arrival his visit aims at exploring the educational systems of Egyptian universities in addition to tackling means of strengthening cultural relations between Egypt and Iraq.

'Abd-al-Majid Leaves for Saudi Arabia

*NC0602063090 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0621 GMT
6 Feb 90*

[Excerpt] Cairo, 6 Feb (MENA)—Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left Cairo for Jeddah this morning on a 2-day visit to Saudi Arabia. During his visit he will attend the celebrations marking the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Islamic Conference Organization. [passage omitted]

Interior Minister Comments on 'Ayn Shams Attack

*NC3101153790 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT
31 Jan 90*

[Text] Cairo, 31 Jan (MENA)—Interior Minister Muhammad 'Abd-al-Halim Musa has stressed that the police will firmly confront any attempt to violate law and order or disturb the peace. He asserted that in all its activities the police force is committed to law and order, as well as to its duty to safeguard the public's security and safety.

Commenting on the attack against a police officer in 'Ayn Shams yesterday, Musa said this is an aggression against the system personified by a police officer. He added that anyone, regardless of his identity or declared motive or opinion, will be dealt with firmly and decisively if he disturbs the peace.

Referring to extremist groups, Minister Musa said the promotion of religious ideas should be carried out through the methods defined by the Koran and the prophet's teachings, and by peaceful means. The police are at the people's service, he said. However, he added, the law will be the only judge when it comes to attempts to disturb peace and order.

The minister refrained from saying whether the police has uncovered any leads in connection with the 'Ayn Shams culprits, asserting that the police are undertaking the task of fighting terrorism and extremism within the framework of the law and legitimacy.

Democratic Party Member Joins People's Assembly

*JN0202115690 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic
31 Jan 90 p 6*

[Text] Results of the People's Assembly elections in the al-Minufiyah's second district were announced yesterday. The winner was 'Abd-al-'Aziz 'Abbas Abu-'Alm, candidate of the National Democratic Party.

Conflict Between Socialist Labor Party Wings Noted

*NC0302222890 Cairo MENA in English 2055 GMT
3 Feb 90*

[Text] Cairo, Feb 3 -(MENA)- The group of Ahmad Mujahid, a Labour Party dissident, confirmed in a statement issued today that the group had been able to recapture the party's main headquarters in Hada'iq al-Qubba District here seized on Thursday by a pro-Ibrahim Shukri Party chairman group.

The dissident group stressed in the statement their commitment to democracy. The group expressed its sorrow over the seizure of the headquarters by the pro-Shukri group, especially after the discussion held with him to heal the rift.

The statement confirmed that mujahid had agreed on a reconciliation attempt between the two party wings during events of the party's congress last year when Mujahid's group rejected domination of the Islamic trends over the leading positions of the party.

German Loan To Modernize Aswan Power Station

*JN2301211690 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic
22 Jan 90 p 1*

[Text] It has been decided to renovate and modernize the Aswan hydroelectric station at the end of its operational life expectancy. An easy-term $130 million loan extended by the German Reconstruction Bank will be used for this purpose. The loan will be repaid over 50 years at an interest rate of 1 percent with a 10-year grace period. The project is expected to be completed within 5 years and is aimed at extending the functional life of the station by 30 years.

Libya

Arab News Agencies Denounce U.S. Sanctions

*LD0202151590 Tripoli JANA in English 1415 GMT
2 Feb 90*

[Text] Kuwait, al-Nawwar [February] 2, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The commission of the general secretariat of the Association of the Arab News Agencies has strongly denounced the anti-Jamahiriya U.S. stand.

The press release issued in Kuwait on concluding the meetings of this secretariat has condemned the U.S. stance which is hostile to Great al-Jamahiriya as represented in renewing the economic sanctions against it.

The statement has stressed the hostile nature of the U.S. stand vis-a-vis Great al-Jamahiriya and the Arab nation as seen by the groundlessness of U.S. allegations agianst Al-Jamahiriya.

The above commission concluded its meetings yesterday afternoon and were attended by the directors general of several Arab news agencies.

Labor Organization Chief Comments

LD2201162390 Tripoli JANA in English 1424 GMT 22 Jan 90

[Text] Tripoli, Ay al-Nar [January] 22, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Mr. al-Hashimi Binani, director general of the Arab Labour Organization, stressed that the U.S. Administration gave another proof of its animosity towards the Arab nation by renewing economic sanctions against Great al-Jamahiriyah. This step also targetted the principles and pan-Arabist thoughts of the great al-Fatih Revolution.

In his telegram to the leader of the revolution Mr. Binani maintained that Great al-Jamahiriyah would be the rock on which all economic, military and information aggression were to be wrecked.

He reaffirmed the supportive stand of his organization and all producers in the Arab homeland alongside the Libyan Arab people in encountering the hostile policy pursued by the U.S. and its allies.

Tunisian Defense Minister Continues Talks

Banquet Held

LD0502154790 Tripoli JANA in English 1411 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Nawwar [February] 5, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Col. Abu-Bakir Yunis Jabir gave last night a banquet in honour of Mr. 'Abdallah Kallel, minister of defence of sisterly Tunisia, and his accompanying delegation. Present at this banquet were a number of officers of the armed people in Great al-Jamahiriya.

The minister of defence in sisterly Tunisia arrived in Tripoli yesterday on a visit to Great al-Jamahiriya. He was received at the airport by Col. Abu-Bakir Y. Jabir and by a number of the officers of the armed people and the general representative of Tunisia in Great al-Jamahiriya.

Commenting to JANA, the Tunisian defence minister pointed out that this visit came within the purview of the mutual contacts and talks between the leader of the revolution and the Tunisian President Ben Ali for the purpose of strengthening the unionist steps taken among the one Arab people in Great al-Jamahiriya and Tunisia.

Meets With Al-Humaydi

LD0502175790 Tripoli JANA in English 1641 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Nawwar [February] 5, JANA—Arab Maghreb Union's pool—Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi received this morning 'Abdallah Kallel the minister of defence in sisterly Tunisia and the personal envoy of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to the leader of the revolution.

During this meeting, which was attended by the general envoy of Tunisia to Great Jamahiriyah, they discussed the aspects of bilateral cooperation and the means to develop them and strengthening them to achieve the ambition of the one Arab people in both Great Jamahiriyah and sisterly Tunisia together with Arab and international matters of mutual interest.

Concludes Visit, Departs

LD0502155290 Tripoli JANA in English 1427 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Tripoli, al-Nawwar [February] 5, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Mr. 'Abdallah Kallel, minister of defence in sisterly Tunisia and personal envoy of President Ben Ali, and his accompanying delegation left Tripoli this morning after concluding their visit to Great al-Jamahiriyah.

He was seen off at the airport by Col. Abu-Bakir Yunis Jabir and by a number of the officers of the armed people as well as the representative of sisterly Tunisia and members of the Tunisian representation.

Tunisian Leader Expresses Thanks for Flood Relief

LD3101203890 Tripoli JANA in English 1825 GMT 31 Jan 90

[Text] Tripoli, Ay al-Nar [January] 31, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali of the Republic of sisterly Tunisia highly appreciated the stances of the leader of the revolution and the Libyan Arab people and their urgent humane aid sent to their brothers in Tunisia to contribute in easing the intensity of the damages inflicted on some regions in Tunisia recently as a result of flooding.

That came during the telephone contact yesterday conducted by 'Abdallah Kallel, the minister of defence in sisterly Tunisia with Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi, whom the leader assigned with following up and coordinate efforts with the brothers in Tunisia to help those affected by the floods.

It is worth mentioning that many land and air convoys headed in the past few days and still heading towards Tunisia carrying humane aid which included tents, blankets, medicines and food items to help those affected by the recent floods which swept many regions of Tunisia.

This morning Major al-Khuwaylidi al-Humaydi received the people's committee set up by the Basic People's Congress of the Jamahiri neighbourhood "Sid Khalifah" in Tajura' to collect donations to support the brothers in Tunisia who were subjected to damages in complying with the resolution from the People's Congress.

During this meeting Major al-Khuwayalidi al-Humaydi saluted this humane Jamahiri initiative and expressed high appreciation for such unionist and brotherly solidarity amongst one Arab people in both Great Jamahiriyah and sisterly Tunisia.

The Jamahiri convoy from Sid Khalifah neighbourhood consisted of food items and blankets for the brothers in Tunisia.

Al-Qadhdhafi Addresses Basic People's Congress

LD2801154590

[Editorial Report] Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic at 1343 GMT on 28 January carries a recording of an address by Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to the Basic People's Congress [BPC] in Hayy al-Akwakh on 27 January. He begins by affirming that neither he nor his colleagues who staged the 1969 revolution ever had any ambitions to hold power in the country. Had they entertained any such ambitions, they would have distributed power among themselves without reference to the people, he says. Instead, they have willingly handed power to the people, who now govern themselves. The system of direct democracy enjoyed by Libyans is "brilliant" and unique" in the world, he says.

Al-Qadhdhafi then goes on to explain in detail how the system of direct democracy works in Libya, how power is delegated from the popular base upwards, to the pinnacle. The mechanics of this system should be rote learned by the people, he stresses. If the people are unhappy with the way a particular BPC or people's committee is running things, then they should change that particular body; that is, they should stage a revolution by themselves.

The Libyan people should define their problems and complaints in the BPC's, Al-Qadhdhafi says. They should then devise the means by which they propose to deal with these problems and then elect the people whom they would like to put in charge of addressing the complaints or resolving the problems, he adds. He then proceeds to give numerous hypothetical examples to illustrate the point.

Al-Qadhdhafi urges the people to increase production. He says that Libyans cannot always rely on petroleum; they should strive to be self-sufficient, especially in food.

Turning to the issue of the revolutionary committees, Al-Qadhdhafi says that they are essential. He says that any angry person could be a revolutionary, whether he is a student, an intellectual, or a toiler.

He then goes on to re-emphasize that the Libyan people, being self-governing, are responsible for themselves. The entire world, he says, is following our example. The spread of pluralism is a sign of the inevitability of the spread of the jamahiri system.

Al-Qadhdhafi says that he represents Libya at international conferences and other meetings by virtue of the principle of revolutionary legitimacy, the principle that led him and his colleagues to overthrow the depraved monarchy and which gives him, the free officers, and the revolutionary committees the power to guard against the prospect of enemies of democracy assuming authority through the system of direct democracy currently in force in order to subvert the people's authority.

In conclusion, he urges the members of the BPC's to be precise in their resolutions. Since they are the ultimate authority in the country, they bear a great responsibility and should be very precise in order to avoid committing injustices and to facilitate the task of implementing their resolutions.

Mauritania

Composition of New Cabinet Members Listed

AB0502191190 Paris AFP in French 1705 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Nouakchott, 5 Feb (AFP)—The following is the list of the members of the new Mauritanian Cabinet after yesterday's reshuffle, the major event of which was the dropping of Colonel Djibril Ould Abdallahi, former interior minister:

Minister of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation	Major Cheikh Sid'Ahmed Ould Baba
Minister of Justice	Hamdi Samba Diop
Minister of Interior, Posts, and Telecommunications	Colonel Mohamed Sidina Ould Sidiya
Minister of Finance	Mohamed Ould Nani
Minister of Planning and Employment	Moustapha Ould Abeiderrahmane
Minister of Commerce, Handicrafts, and Tourism	Mrs Kadijettou Mint Ahmed
Minister of Fisheries and Maritime Economy	Ahmed Ould Khalifa Ould Jiddou
Minister of Rural Development	Hammoud Ould Ely

Minister of Mines and Industry	Mohamed Salem Ould Mohamed Lemine
Minister of Equipment and Transports	Colonel Dieng Omar Omar Harouna
Minister of Water Supply and Energy	Soumare Omar
Minister of National Education	Hasni Ould Didi
Minister of Civil Service, Youth, and Sports	Mohamed Ould Heimer
Minister of Health and Social Affairs	Lieutenant Colonel Ndiaye Kane
Minister of Culture and Islamic Orientation	Mohamed Salem Ould Addoud
Minister of Information	Mohamed Lemine Ould Ahmed
Minister in charge of State General Control	El-Yassa Ould Soueid'Ahmed
General Secretary of the Government	Baro Abdoulaye
Deputy General Secretary of the Government	(?Ba Allasene Yero)
Secretary of State for Illiteracy Control and Basic Education [Enseignement originel]	Rachid Ould Saleh
Secretary of State for Maghreb Affairs	Ahmed Ould Sidi
Permanent Secretary, Military Committee for National Salvation (ruling military organ)	Lieutenant Colonel Mohamed Lemine Ould N'Diyane

AFP Assesses Reshuffle

AB0502153390 Paris AFP in French 1935 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Nouakchott, 4 Feb (AFP)—The Mauritanian cabinet reshuffle announced today by presidential decree is characterized by the dropping of the man long considered the Mauritanian Government's strong man, Colonel Djibril Ould Abdallahi. Considered as the regime's No 2, Col Ould Abdallahi is a half-caste (his mother is Mauritanian) who was for long under the name of Gabriel Cimper (the name of his French father) and whom some observers believed might one day assume the highest responsibilities in Nouakchott.

Col Ould Abdallahi, who is the only minister dropped from the cabinet, has been replaced at the Ministry of the Interior by Colonel Mohamed Sidina Ould Sidya, who had previously been minister of fisheries and maritime economy (the leading source of foreign exchange for the country). Considered loyal to the Mauritanian leader, Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, Col Sidina Ould Sidya long remained the "permanent secretary" of the Military Committee for National Salvation (in power in Mauritania) and then minister of foreign affairs. He was also inspector general of police, a post that will certainly help him become quickly operational at the Ministry of the Interior. As a son of the Boutilimit Region (southwest Mauritania), he knows well the problems confronting the Senegal River region, where many clashes have pitted Mauritanians against Senegalese since the beginning of the April 1989 incidents between the two countries. This replacement, which has caused great surprise in Nouakchott—no official explanations were given—has proved, according to observers, that Col Taya effectively holds the reins of the government he has led for more than 5 years. Some sources said that the head of state has been seriously affected by the loss of his wife, Sadia Kamil, 37 who died of heart attack 2 weeks ago.

The other changes within the cabinet, which concern rotations of ministers, seem to augur the return of the southerners to power and for the reinforcement of the presence of women in the cabinet. The appointment of the new interior minister and the confirmation of the minister of equipment with Colonel Dieng Harouna of the Polaar tribe from the Riverine region are proof of this "promotion of the south," according to observers, who also note the promotion of Mrs Khadija Mint Ahmed, former minister of women's affairs, to the Ministry of Commerce Handicrafts, and Tourism.

The Ministry for Women's Affairs has now been entrusted to Mrs Aicha Mint Ahmed of the permanent secretariat of the Military Committee, which was recently taken to task by the "Muslim brothers," who thus seem to have been disavowed by the Presidency.

Financiers' Meeting on Repatriated Citizens Ends

AB3001222290 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 1430 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Excerpts] The financiers' meeting on the program to reintegrate our fellow countrymen repatriated from Senegal ended yesterday evening at the Hotel el-Ahmedi under the chairmanship of Moustapha Ould Abderrahmane, minister of planning and employment. One can say that this meeting ended successfully as the financiers agreed to finance the program. Alpha Ngai has the details:

[Ngai] Indeed, the financiers have decided to release $36 million for Mauritania to finance the interim phase of the reintegration program. This means that our country succeeded in obtaining the funds necessary for the implementation of the interim phase of the program. In addition, this success is a clear demonstration of the financiers' renewed confidence in Mauritania's generous solidarity move and in the strategy adopted to efficiently utilize the potentials of the repatriated. This confidence was stressed by the financiers when they expressed their admiration for the dossiers submitted to them.

Closing the deliberations, the minister of planning and employment expressed satisfaction with their availability. He first stressed that the entire Mauritanian nation is now mobilized in a common struggle against underdevelopment and recalled in this regard that the first development program, namely, that of financial and economic recovery, was succesful, adding that it will be the same with the program currently under way and which will be completed in 1991. [passage omitted]

Speaking to the financiers, the minister said: Thanks to your determination and understanding of our country's situation, we drew up a large-scale reintegration program, and we can boast that this Nouakchott meeting succeeded in obtaining the $36 million necessary for financing the program. Of course, the financing of the social aspect of this reintegration program will be discussed at a meeting to be held in the months ahead. The concrete pledges made by some of you, the minister added, comfort us and will, no doubt, help implement the program that we previously drew up.

In conclusion, the minister called on the participants to convey to their countries and institutions all the gratitude and appreciation of the Mauritanian Government and people.

Sudan

NSRCC Member Discusses Domestic Affairs, U.S.

*JN1701193890 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic
16 Jan 90 p 12*

[Interview with Brigadier General Ibrahim Nayil Idam, National Salvation Revolution Command Council (NSRCC) member and security adviser to NSRCC member Colonel Salah-al-Din Karrar, by Shakir al-Jawhari in Khartoum on 30 December 89]

[Excerpts] [Al-Jawhari] How true are reports that former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi was tortured?

[Idam] These reports are groundless. I heard that former parliamentarian 'Abd-al-Hakim Tayfur asked about these rumors. I also heard he was asked to visit the jail in which al-Sadiq al-Mahdi was detained to find out for himself the untruthfulness of these reports. As a matter of fact, he visited the jail and spoke to all the detainees there. The detainees confirmed to him that the rumors were without foundation.

[Al-Jawhari] Did he meet with al-Sadiq al-Mahdi?

[Idam] Yes, he did. And if you review the archives of Sudanese newspapers, you will see this for yourself.

[Al-Jawhari] What has prompted you to release the leaders of all parties with the exception of al-Sadiq al-Mahdi?

[Idam] The revolution has decided that the leaders who are not found guilty of crimes, whose conduct in jail proves to be good, and whose parties take no action in the country, will be released. We have released party leaders and members. As a first step, they are currently held under house arrest. If they demonstrate good intentions, their good intentions will be met with further signs of goodwill by the government. Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is not the only party leader to remain in jail. Communist Party leader Muhammad Ibrahim Nuqud also remains in jail.

[Al-Jawhari] Why?

[Idam] Because the Communist Party and al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's party oppose the revolution. The al-Ummah Party has continued to hold meetings. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jawhari] What about Ibrahim Nuqud?

[Idam] What is being done by the communists is strongly linked to John Garang's movement. The Communist Party Central Committee instructed its members to oppose this government. The antigovernment activities initially took the form of meetings and partial strikes. And then there was the recent strike by physicians. The physicians' strike was part of the communists' scheme, and was scheduled to be followed by others. However, vigilance and God's grace allowed us to be informed from the beginning about this scheme.

[Al-Jawhari] Would you explain the scheme and its objectives to us in detail?

[Idam] The scheme sought to undermine public order. You are well aware that communists in every country in the world are always dissatisfied unless they are in power.

[Al-Jawhari] But now they are accepting this in leading communist countries, are they not?

[Idam] What the local communists are saying has nothing to do with communism. European states have now shed the mantle of communism and begun to head toward a capitalist system.

[Al-Jawhari] In the early days of your revolution, you announced you would arrest only a limited number of party leaders; and this is what actually happened in the beginning. However, Sudan is currently witnessing a large-scale arrest campaign under the pretext of eliminating the Communist Party. This campaign was announced by Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir. As a matter of fact, those arrested belong to all parties; that is, they belong to the al-Ummah Party, the Democratic Unionist Party, the Ba'th Party, and all other parties. What is the reason behind this large-scale arrest campaign?

[Idam] This is not an expansion of the arrest policy. However, the revolution must be firm with all antigovernment activists. We arrest everybody who acts against the revolution. We have not arrested innocent individuals. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jawhari] I have learned that the al-Ummah Party or its leaders drew up a plan to liquidate every member of the Revolution Command Council, as well as members of the National Islamic Front, and that al-Sadiq al-Mahdi asked them not to implement the plan when they asked for his opinion. What information do you have on this matter?

[Idam] All those who seek power draw up such plans. In contrast, when we seized power, we never thought of liquidating this or that leader. We seized power to save this country and to prevent any more bloodshed. As for those who plan to liquidate us, I would like to tell them that we fear nobody except God. We know quite well that each of us has a preordained appointment with death, whether it comes through liquidation or natural causes.

We are ready for any eventuality, considering that we initiated our movement to save this people. If we are killed, it would be a sacrifice on behalf of the people. If we remain alive, it would also be a sacrifice for the people. We fear nothing and nobody.

[Al-Jawhari] According to your information, how true is this report?

[Idam] We have abundant information on the matter. Some people are threatening and others are scheming. The activities of all these parties are under our surveillance.

[Al-Jawhari] My question is about your information regarding al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's position on the scheme.

[Idam] We know nothing about his position, about whether or not he opposed the scheme. However, we are aware of the information contained in your question.

[Al-Jawhari] What precautions have you taken to deal with this scheme?

[Idam] We are ready for any eventuality. I pray to God that it will not take place, as our reaction would be violent. We will not forgive anyone—whoever he is—if he attacks an innocent person, simply because God says in the Koran: If someone slays a person—unless it be for murder or for spreading mischief in the land—it would be as if he slew the whole people.]

[Al-Jawhari] Does this mean that that you would take revenge on the person of al-Sadiq al-Mahdi, and execute him, in the event the scheme is carried out?

[Idam] We do not execute people who are not guilty. However, anyone who perpetrates such a crime will inevitably be taken to task. We will assassinate those who scheme and carry out such assassinations. I am referring here to those who would be found responsible for such an incident. Those responsible will be taken to task. Nevertheless, the revolution will not take revenge on others, as vindictiveness is not one of our traits, neither is it an Islamic trait.

[Al-Jawhari] Would you tell us please about the scheme which began with a strike by physicians and which resulted in a court verdict calling for the execution of a physician and the jailing of another for 15 years?

[Idam] The physicians strike was a link in a series of strikes. It was designed to be followed by a second strike by engineers and a third one by other trade unions in order to undermine public order after paralyzing public services such as electricity, water, hospital services, and other services that maintain normal life. According to the plotters, this would have made it easy for them to pounce on the regime.

However, the planners of these strikes have forgotten that we were with them when they were drawing up their plans. We and God were aware of their plans. And so, their activities were unearthed. From the outset, we were aware of the details of their plans. These people are closely linked to events outside Sudan and to the rebel movement. The resolutions produced by the national dialogue conference were constructive and acceptable to all Sudanese, including the rebel movement, which voiced its acceptance. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jawhari] By the way, the execution verdict passed against Dr Ma'mun, who planned the physicians' strike, elicited reactions from the United States and West European states, who viewed the sentence as a human rights violation. This prompted the United States and West European states to make a decision stopping all humanitarian aid to Sudan—or to threaten such a decision. Do not you believe that carrying out this execution would deprive Sudan of valuable aid?

[Idam] In this case, I would like to make one thing clear. Life and death are not in the hands of one man. The people's life and death is not in the hands of the United States. The United States is currently talking about human rights and similar issues. We have failed to see a humanitarian U.S. position on Palestine and Panama. Why does the United States permit itself to act as a world policemen and seek to prevent us from working to prevent a deterioration of the situation in our country? The execution sentence falls under the jurisdiction of the judicial authorities; and we do not interfere with the court's sentences issued in accordance with the laws in force.

[Al-Jawhari] Do you then intend to carry out the execution?

[Idam] It is not I who intends. [sentence as published] The sentence has to be endorsed by the highest authority.

[Al-Jawhari] You mean the Revolution Command Council, or the chairman of the Revolution Command Council?

[Idam] The entire Revolution Command Council along with its chairman are responsible. What I want to say is that neither the United States nor any other country will bring us to our knees. Let the United States withhold everything from us. Our dignity is more important. To eat sorghum bread soaked with water is better and more honorable for us than to beg for U.S. help. In this context, I would like to say that there are friendly and fraternal states other than the United States. There are Arab and Islamic states, which care for Sudan. Besides, Sudan has an abundance of wealth and resources. If we were to be abandoned by the United States and others, this wealth and these resources on the ground and underground would secure us a decent living. What I would like to tell you is that we will not be brought to our knees just to secure our food requirements. We are ready to sacrifice everything for the sake of preserving the dignity of our country and people.

[Al-Jawhari] There are people who believe that the United States does not care about the execution of an individual. They believe that the United States fears the emergence of an Islamic experience in Sudan similar to the Iranian experience.

[Idam] The analogy between Sudan and Iran is irrelevant. I would like to affirm that we have nothing to do with Iran. They [not further identified] want to view things exclusively using their own perspective. As for us, we have our own views, and they have to sit with us. There is one thing that I want to emphasize: If the Americans actually seek to help Sudan, they must strive to force the rebel movement to sit down with us to bring an end to Sudan's miseries, as they have done in the past. We have our independent decisionmaking and it is not influenced by the decisions of others. [passage omitted]

[Al-Jawhari] How true are reports that NSRCC member Major Ibrahim Shams-al-Din is currently training militias of the National Islamic Front?

[Idam] Where are these militias? That is what I would like to know. And is the training being conducted clandestinely or publicly? [passage omitted]

[Al-Jawhari] I have also heard that Ibrahim threatened to cause hell to break loose on the heads of the NSRCC if you fail to endorse the immediate application of Islamic shari'a.

[Idam] I would like to swear on God's book (he took out a copy of the Koran from his desk drawer) that such a thing has not taken place. These are tendentious rumors. As for the question of the establishment of an Islamic republic, we are aware of the impact of such a thing on the Sudanese people.

Garang Confers With Mobutu on Peace Mediation Bid

EA3001190990 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 30 Jan 90

[Text] The chairman and commander in chief meets his excellency President Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire. A Radio SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] correspondent accompanying the chairman and SPLM/SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement/Army] Commander in Chief Comrade John Garang de Mabior has reported that the two leaders, President Mobutu and Dr John Garang, met for 3 hours on Saturday, 27 January 1990, in Goma, Kivu Province, in Zaire. The discussion covered the political and military situation in the Sudan and prospects for peace in the country.

After the meeting, Comrade John Garang de Mabior spoke to pressmen. Asked about what the discussions were about, Dr John Garang said President Mobutu has asked him to come and that he sent a plane to Addis Ababa for the purpose. President Mobutu reported that President Mubarak of Egypt, in his capacity as the current chairman of the OAU, had written a letter requesting him to play a mediation role and contribute toward bringing peace to the Sudan. As a result, President Mobutu said he had asked the SPLM/SPLA chairman to come over so that he hears the movement's reaction.

Dr John Garang responded by reiterating SPLM/SPLA's commitment to peace through dialogue and welcomed the OAU's intervention in the peace process, assuring President Mobutu that should he find his work difficult this would not be from the SPLM/SPLA's side but rather from the junta's side. The chairman and commander in chief SPLM/SPLA told President Mobutu that the Sudanese people have suffered greatly from the war and drought and SPLM/SPLA would not continue the war one day longer if a just solution is found.

Asked by the press why the meeting took so long, Dr John Garang replied that President Mobutu asked to be briefed about the political and military situation in the Sudan, and this was done in detail and President Mobutu listened very attentively. Asked what the military situation was in the Sudan, Dr John Garang told the press that there is a heavy fighting on all fronts.

As it is to be recalled, 'Umar al-Bashir had vowed publicly over the local and international media that he was going to destroy the SPLM/SPLA within 2 months. Comrade John Garang de Mabior said the general is making good of his threat, and as a result he has attacked the SPLA on all fronts. He concluded that the SPLA is doing all that it can to defend itself from 'Umar al-Bashir's threat and military offensive, and that the movement is confident it will survive 'Umar al-Bashir's offensive.

The SPLM/SPLA leader left Zaire by the same plane for Addis Ababa the following day, 28 January 1990, from where he will go home. Asked at the airport on departure the next step towards peace was, Dr John Garang said this depends on President Mobutu and 'Umar al-Bashir's junta. The issues are clear, and what chairman and commander in chief did was to assure President Mobutu that the SPLM/SPLA is committed to peace through dialogue, that President Mobutu's mediation is welcome and that any complications will not be from the SPLM/SPLA, but from the other side.

General Command's Statement on Lanya Attack

EA2401182890 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1015 GMT 24 Jan 90

[Text] Khartoum, 24 Jan (SUNA)—The Armed Forces have killed 71 outlaws, including a major and 2 first lieutenants. They also seized 26 Kalashnikov guns, 2 RPG's, 7 machineguns, and 42 Chinese machine pistols, in addition to large quantities of different types of ammunition and military equipment.

This was included in a statement issued by the General Command of the Armed Forces, which said that the Armed Forces, moving out of Juba, Equatoria's capital, to Yei were ambushed by the outlaws—estimated at 2 infantry companies—7 miles from Lanya. The statement added that during the operation, 6 members of the Armed Forces, 2 policemen and 2 militiamen were martyred, and 10 individuals were wounded.

SPLA Says Equatoria Region Commander Replaced

EA2301201590 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 23 Jan 90

[Excerpt] Sudanese People's Liberation Army [SPLA] reports from inside Juba say that the National Islamic Front Government, which is led by 'Umar al-Bashir, has started losing trust in the Army officers from the south and the Nubah Mountains.

After the Isaiah Paul tragedy, documented sources say that the government of the Islamic Front has replaced Staff Major General Allison Magaya from the military command in Equatoria Region with immediate effect. He has been replaced by Major General Nasr al-Din Sulayman Ibrahim, who is said to have arrived in Juba and taken over his duties.

The same sources say that Staff Maj Gen Allison Magaya may continue his duties as a military governor for Equatoria Region as a political camouflage, but in actual fact he will receive his salary without actual jurisdiction. [passage omitted]

Qatar

Mujahidin Government Head Arrives 3 Feb

JN0302160090 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Doha, Feb 3 (GNA)—Prime Minister of the Afghan mujahideen government, 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf arrived here today on a two-day visit to Qatar in the context of a Gulf tour.

In a statement to QATAR NEWS AGENCY upon arrival, Sayyaf praised Qatar's stands and continued support of the Afghan mujahideen.

The visit to Qatar comes in the context of brotherly visits to the states of the region to explain the jihad and developments in Afghanistan, he added.

Commenting on recent reports about a possible return of ex-Afghan King Zahir Shah as a compromise solution to the Afghan problem, Sayyaf said the mujahideen would not accept an outside solution.

He said ex-king does not have any foothold in Afghanistan and is viewed by the mujahideen at the main cause of the current problem.

Meets Deputy Amir

JN0302162190 Manama WAKH in English 1533 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Doha Feb 3 (GNA)—Qatari Deputy Amir and Heir Apparent H.H. Shaykh Hamad Ibn-Khalifah Al Thani received here this morning Prime Minister of the Provisional Islamic Afghan Mujahideen Government, Dr. 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, currently visiting Doha.

Qatari minister of justice, Shaykh Ahmad Ibn-Sayf Al Thani, attended the meeting together with a number of mujahideen government ministers accompanying Sayyaf.

Current developments relating to the Afghan problem were reviewed during the meeting.

Dr. Sayyaf expressed to H.H. the Emir of Qatar the government and people of the State of Qatar his government's appreciation for their constant consolidation and support for the Afghani problem.

Predicts Imminent Victory

JN0302182190 Manama WAKH in English 1650 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Doha, Feb 3 (GNA)—The head of the Afghan provisional government 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf said the Afghan mujahideen movement was now on the verge of achieving final and decisive victory.

In an interview with QATAR NEWS AGENCY today the Afghan leader said armed struggle (jihad) was the only option for the Afghan movement to achieve its goal since peaceful means were not available.

He noted that the Afghan movement was not bloodthirsty but to the contrary it was constantly seeking to stem the bloodshed whenever an opportunity for a peaceful settlement has risen.

He denounced attempts to undermine the unity of the Afghan movements, describing existing differences as mere differences in views and tactics and not in principles and noble goals.

The various Afghan movements have now surpassed the coordination stage and now proceeding towards merging in a single front.

He praised the political support by the organization of the Islamic conference for the Afghan mujahideen government.

The Afghan leader is currently visiting Qatar within a tour in the region that already covered Saudi Arabia and Bahrain.

Meets Crown Prince

LD0302182790 Kuwait KUNA in English 1444 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Doha, Feb 3 (KUNA)—Head of the Afghan rebel provisional government 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf arrived here from Bahrain Saturday and immediately went into talks with Qatar's Crown Prince Shaykh Bin-Hamad Khalifah Al Thani, an official report said.

As the two discussed the Afghan problem, Sayyaf paid tribute to Qatar's leaders and government for their support for the Afghan cause, the report added.

The Qatari news agency quoted him as saying in an arrival statement his current Arabian Gulf tour which has also taken him to Kuwait was in part of the interim government's efforts to outline to Gulf leaders developments of the situation in Afghanistan.

Commenting on reports which claimed the former Afghan King Zahir Shah would return to Kabul in a compromise settlement of the Afghan problem, Sayyaf said his government would not accept an "imported" solution.

The king, he said, will have no foothold in Afghanistan and the Afghan rebels consider him the source of the country's woes.

Departs 4 Feb

JN0402134490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0830 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Doha, 4 Feb (WAKH)—Afghan Mujahidin Prime Minister Dr. 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf left Doha this morning following a two-day visit to the State of Qatar.

Dr. Sayyaf conducted talks with His Highness Shaykh Hamad Ibn-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari deputy amir and heir apparent, on the overall current situation concerning the Afghan issue.

The Afghan mujahidin prime minister's visit to Qatar is part of a tour that already has taken him to a number of the region's states, during which he briefed the officials of these states on the developments pertaining to the Afghan issue.

Oman

Sultan Receives PDRY, UAE Messages

JN0602055790 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1840 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Muscat, 5 Feb (WAKH)—His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman has received a joint oral message from Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], and Socialist Party Secretary General 'Ali Salim al-Bid.

The message was conveyed by Justice and Religious Trusts Minister 'Abd-al-Wasi' Salim when His Majesty Sultan Qabus received him here today.

His Majesty Sultan Qabus also received a written message from His Highness Shaykh Saqr Bin-Muhammad al-Qasimi, member of the United Arab Emirates' [UAE] Higher Council and Ra's al-Khaymah ruler.

The message was delivered by Shaykh Sa'ud Bin-Saqr, head of the Ra's al-Khaymah ruler's diwan, when received by His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id here this evening.

PDRY

PDRY, YAR Labor Ministers Conduct Talks

EA0502074490 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] The first round of talks between Brother 'Uthman 'Abd-al-Jabir Rashid, minister of labor and civil service, and Brother Muhammad 'Abdallah al-Jayfi, minister of civil service and administrative reform in the northern part of the homeland [Yemen Arab Republic], was conducted this morning in the conference hall of the Ministry of Labor and Civil Service.

The tasks entrusted to the two ministries by the two Councils of Ministers in their first joint meeting recently conducted in Sanaa were discussed. The agenda presented by the two labor ministers also was agreed upon. At the end of the meeting, a number of specialized committees were formed.

These committees are as follows:

A committee for preparing the organizational structure for the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reform in the unity state;
A committee for social security and pensions for employees of the civil service, which already has been working for two days;
A committee for unifying the two institutes of the administrative science in the two parts of the homeland;
A committee to draw up the rules and regulations for the civil service.
A committee to lay down policies on wages and salaries in the unity state.

It is worth mentioning the committees began their work today. There are other committees concerned with legislation of the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Reform.

The Ministry of Social Security and Social Affairs and the Ministry of Labor and Vocational Training are conducting their meetings in Sanaa and Aden. The Ministry of Social Affairs will be drafting a law for trade unions and societies. A committee for labor legislation will draft a labor law for the unity state, as well as legislation for vocational training.

Saudi Arabia

Government Discusses Thai Attack, Other Issues

LD0502224390 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Excerpts] Riyadh, 5 Feb (SPA)—King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, presided over a meeting of the Council of Ministers this afternoon at Al-Yamamah palace in Riyadh.

After the meeting, Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state, member of the council of Ministers, and acting information minister, told SPA:

King Fahd Ibn-'Abd al-'Aziz, the custodian of the two holy mosques, opened the session by praying for mercy for the souls of the three Saudi martyrs who were assassinated by the terrorists while performing their duties to their religion and country.

The custodian of the two holy mosques said: "This terrorist and criminal act will not make us abandon our vocation toward our nation, will not make us abandon the defense our faith, stop us raising the flag of the one God, and will not stop us from adopting the necessary measures to protect the citizens."

Regarding this, the acting minister of information pointed out the custodian of the two holy mosques has issued orders both to the interior and to the foreign ministries to adopt the necessary measures, both in the security and the political fields, at the same time demanding the Thai Government shoulder its responsibilities to expose the culprits and bring them to justice to receive punishment.

Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud praised the Thai Government's readiness to confront terrorism and work toward uncovering the culprits. [passage omitted]

The acting minister of information added the custodian of the two holy mosques followed up his previous directives about the need to prepare the financial data about the entitlements of any national or foreign company or individuals at any ministry or government organization to pay off these entitlements so people get their rights and are not harmed, but are ruled with justice.

Because of his commitment to pay off the entitlements, supported by documents, of these companies and individuals, the custodian of the two holy mosques asked for this data to be presented in full at the next Council of Ministers meeting to decide on them and give everyone their rights. [passage omitted]

Concerning the Lebanese issue, the custodian of the two holy mosques reiterated his confidence the legitimate Lebanese government will overcome the difficulties and problems of the current conflict and fighting in the eastern sector of Beirut between the brigades of the Lebanese Army and the Lebanese forces by dealing with the situation with wisdom, patience, and firmness until the Lebanese legitimacy is able to establish security and stability in Lebanon.

In the Palestinian arena, the Council of Ministers expressed Saudi hopes the meetng of the ministerial committee delegated to follow up the uprising and support it, which is being conducted today in Tunis, will continue its support until the establishment of the independent Palestinian state, and expressed Saudi support for the committee and for the Palestinian people behind the leadership of the PLO, their sole legitimate representative. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Sends Condolences to King

LD0602000290 Riyahd SPA in Arabic 2045 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Riyadh, 5 Feb (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, has received the following message from President Yasir 'Arafat:

To the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-Aziz, may God protect him.

It is with great sadness and sorrow I learned of the assassination of the Saudi diplomats in Thailand by dastardly criminal hands while these employees of the diplomatic corps were carrying out their national duty.

Therefore, on behalf of our Palestinian Arab people, our brothers, the members of the PLo Executive Committee, and on my own behalf, I am sending to you, your brothers and the fraternal Saudi people, my most sincere condolences and sympathy. I pray God grant his mercy to the victims and open the doors of heaven to them, and to give their families strength and comfort. We belong to God and to Him we shall return.

[Signed] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, chairman of the PLO Executive Committee.

United Arab Emirates

President Meets Kelly, Deplores Israeli Measures

JN0502170290 Manama WAKH in English 1530 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Feb. 5 (GNA)—UAE [United Arab Emirates] President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan today urged the United States to work for achieving a just and comprehensive solution to the Palestinian problem and ending Israel's repressive and terorrist measures against the Palestinian people.

He made the comments during a meeting with U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Middle East and Southeast Asian Affairs John Kelly.

Kelly briefed Shaykh Zayid on the efforts exerted by the United States to reach a peace settlement in the Middle East. The meeting also discussed the Palestinian problem and the situation in Lebanon.

U.S. Official Departs

JN0602081690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0510 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, 5 Feb (WAKH)—John Kelly, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs, left Abu Dhabi tonight for Muscat, following a two-day visit to the UAE, as part of his tour in the region.

During his visit, the U.S. official met with senior UAE officials, and discussed with them the latest international developments and bilateral relations.

Yemen Arab Republic

President Salih Lauds U.S., French Ties

JN0302144790 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Feb 90

["Text" of President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih's speech at a popular rally in al-Hudaydah Governorate on 3 February celebrating the unity steps and the president's return from his visit to the United States and France—recorded]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate: O great and massive rally. I greet you with the salutations of the revolution and the republic, the greetings of liberty, democracy, and unity. [applause]

I am very happy to address you at this great rally. I thank you for your overflowing national emotions and great enthusiam for our basic national issue—the issue of Yemeni unity—the strategic goal of the Yemeni revolution [applause] and the greatest concern of our Yemeni masses. [applause]

Brothers, brothers: We are determined to realize all the aspirations and hopes of our people toward unity. The positive steps we have taken with our brothers and the leaders of the southern part of the homeland compel us all to continue down this noble national path while receiving support and aid from God Almighty and from your enthusiam and determination, the people whose basic interests lie in the revolution and unity. [applause]

Brothers: There is no going back on the historic Aden agreement, nor are there any doubts concerning its realization—the agreement which we signed with our brothers in the leadership of the southern part of the homeland on 30 November 1989. [applause] Unity is the path and eternal destiny of our people. Unity is our strength, pride, and dignity. Unity is the legitimate right of our proud Yemeni people who have long struggled and offered great sacrifices for its sake. This unity phase requires further concerted effort and energy. [applause]

The unity committees and the two cabinets in the two parts are continuing their work with seriousness and enthusiasm...[applause] the unity committees are continuing their work with seriousness and enthusiasm to unite laws and merge ministries, interests, and official and popular institutions as a basis for establishing the unity state.

O gathered masses: It is a great occasion for me to be here with you at this great rally after our visit to the United States of America at the invitation of U.S. President George Bush, [applause] whom I met with, as well as other officials in the U.S. Administration. We discussed bilateral, Arab, and international issues. We encountered a positive understanding which will yield positive results to our Yemeni homeland, our Arab nation, and the issues of peace and security in the region. [applause] We found this same understanding during our meeting and talks with French President Francois Mitterrand, the French foreign minister, and the defense minister in Paris on our way back to the homeland. [applause]

Dear brothers: We made a point of meeting with our expatriate kinfolk in the United States of America to acquaint ourselves with their situation and find out their concerns, which are those of the whole nation. We were overjoyed at their great enthusiasm over Yemeni unity, their support for all unity steps, their adherence to the principles and bases of the revolutions and components of the national charter, and their creative interaction with the General People's Congress. [applause]

Yes, dear brothers: The international attention our people and homeland are getting, the support for the issue of Yemeni unity from all Arab and international levels, those constituting the U.S. Administration, the French Government, and all the friends; and the support declared by the Soviet leadership, which came to bolster the stand of all Arab brothers backing all measures taken to reunite the Yemeni homeland; all this increases our responsibility—people and leadership—to take steps to realize the hopes of millions of our people. It also compels us to redouble and continue our efforts toward this noble and national goal—the goal of realizing Yemeni unity. Let all efforts be combined and let all potentials be united for the sake of unity and the establishment of the united Yemeni state.

God grant all of us success and may His peace and blessings be upon you. [applause]

Saddam Husayn Denounces 'Crime' Against Saudis

JN0502160690 Baghdad INA in English 1530 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad. Feb 5, INA—President Saddam Husayn renewed Iraq's stand by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia against the anti-Arab evil-doers who aim the stabs of perfidy at the brothers in the Kingdom.

In a message addressed to King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, in denunciation of the crime of assassinate three Saudi diplomats in Bangkok, the president called for an effective collective stance against the enemies.

The president has pointed out that conflict between Arabism and Islam and those counterfeiting its concepts extends to long time ago.

Minister Condemns Bangkok 'Heinous Crime'

JN0502092890 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0800 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, 5 Feb (INA)—Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has condemned the heinous crime perpetrated by criminal hands to assassinate three diplomats from sisterly Saudi Arabia in Bangkok, capital of Thailand, while carrying out their official duties. In a statement to INA today, the culture and information minister said that this crime is an ugly expression of the objectives of the culprits, who are well known for their records in Mecca and in other Arab and world countries, and also for their intention to terrify the innocent, kill the defenseless, and spread terrorism in the world.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim expressed his regret over this incident and Iraq's condolences to sisterly Saudi Arabia on the loss of the innocent victims, asking God to safeguard the sisterly country from all evil.

The culture and information minister expressed Iraq's full solidarity with the brothers in Saudi Arabia and its strong condemnation of this ugly terrorist act that represents an encroachment on all human values and principles.

Media Comment on Jewish Immigration to Palestine

Campaign Urged Against 'Scheme'

JN0102154890 Baghdad INA in English 1010 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 1, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily for today described continuity of the Soviet Jews migration to occupied Palestine as catastrophe threatening the Arab homeland.

In a commentary today, the paper has referred to the recent rise in the curve of migration operations especially in 1989 and this year.

A report by the Central Office for Statistics in the Zionist entity pointed out that 24650 new emigrants had arrived in the Zionist entity in 1989, a number exceeding by 845 emigrants than the year before it.

The report added that 12900 emigrants, i.e. 54 per cent of emigrants, arrived from the Soviet Union against 2300 Soviets in year 1988.

The paper made it clear that the organized emigration and its numerous similar ones in previous years, was a sinister studied scheme cunningly planned by Zionism and had been implemented with accuracy.

Many parties take part in implementing this scheme. These parties placed the Soviet and European Jews before one option, i.e. to head for occupied Palestine.

AL-THAWRAH confirmed "this demographic variable places the process of peace in the Middle East before a gun barrel and impedes any possible settlement for the Arab-Zionist conflict. And this in particular what Zionism wants, it wants the entire land and believes in expansion and does not recognize peace."

The paper went on saying that this conspiratorial scheme constituted a dangerous indicator against the Arab nation and put her in a position of continued threat. It added "this attitude requires holding Arab meetings to reach a formula defining an Arab action on the basis of which a joint action is founded in order to besiege this plot."

The paper demanded the launching of an information plan at world level to explain dimensions of the scheme and its dangers, and holding meetings and contacts with parties and organizations in the world to obtain a popular support, pressing towards supporting the Arab stance.

'Violation' of Geneva Convention

JN0302102290 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 2100 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Iraq has called on the UN Commission on Human Rights to consider the large-scale mass immigration of Soviet Jews to occupied Palestine as a blatant violation of the 1949 Geneva Convention, because this immigration will cause the Zionist entity to intensify its violation of the Palestinian right to self-determination. Iraq's representative to the meetings of the 46th session of the Commission on Human Rights said the new mass immigration of Soviet Jews into occupied Palestine means building more settlements in the occupied territory at the expense of the Palestinian people. This will consolidate the Zionist occupation at a time when the UN and the entire world are trying to end it and restore the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

In a speech this evening at the commission's meeting in Geneva, the Iraqi representative said international detente, which all peoples of the world bless and hope will result in consolidating peace and ending regional disputes by peaceful means, should not, in any way, take place at the expense of people.

Iraq's representative urged the commission take effective measures to deter the Zionist entity from its continued violations of human rights, instead of adopting abstract resolutions calling on the occupation authority to adhere to international charters on human rights and international treaties.

The Iraqi representative added the more resolutions and recommendations were adopted by the UN and its specialized agencies, the more violations of human rights that were committed by the Zionist entity, and consequently, belligerency and bitterness increased.

As a result of the international agencies' silence, the Zionists do not differentiate between a woman, a child, and an old man and are using the most brutal methods of killing, torture, and detention. This has resulted in further suffering for the Palestinian people.

The Iraqi representative called on the international community not only to condemn the Zionist entity and expose its brutal methods in the occupied territory, but also to go further and make the regime submit to international law and standards. He said the Palestinian people are demanding their inalienable rights to self-determination and an independent state. The Arab people in Lebanon and the Golan want to expel the usurpers, liberate the land, and return it to the Arab homeland.

He added these demands were guaranteed by every international law and standard, including the principles of human international law and the UN Charter. In light of this, the Arab people in Palestine, Lebanon, and Golan have defended—through their own self-defense—noble human values, the principles of the international law, and the UN Charter on freedom, independence, and honorable life.

The Iraqi representative called on the participants in the 46th session of the Commission on Human Rights not to look at the Palestine question from only one angle; the call to provide material assistance to ease the Palestinian people's burden. The Palestine question must be viewed more comprehensively, because it is an issue of conflict, occupation of another people's territory, and the expulsion of an entire people from their land.

Concluding his speech, the Iraqi representative said: We cannot guarantee respect for the rights of the Palestinian people, including human rights, without exercising in practice their right to self-determination and their independent state on their own territory.

AL-THAWRAH Criticizes U.S. Stand

JN0402122390 Baghdad INA in English 1020 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 4, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily for today called on the international community to bear its responsibilities to preclude more violation of Arab Palestinian people's rights and Arab historical rights in occupied Palestine.

In a commentary on escalation in numbers of Soviet Jews emigrants to occupied Palestine, the paper added it was not per chance that the U.S. in this very time, worked on regulating emigration to prevent the Soviet Jews from heading for its territories. The U.S. for many decades, has opened its doors for emigrants from different parts of the world.

Dimensions of the Zionist scheme has been disclosed. It utilizes full weight of information, political and economic effects in Europe and America to force the Soviet Jews to go to occupied Palestine in order to realise the Zionist dream of "big Israel".

Therefore, it is not incidental that the U.S. pays additional financial aids to the Zionist entity amounting 500 million dollars to help the latter accommodate the new Soviet emigrants.

The paper concluded that the Arabs would reject being the first victim to pay the price of the international detente. The paper said that what was now going on might achieve peace for the big powers. But it would push tension to the Mideast region, at the time when efforts of the international community are stepped up to solve the Palestinian issue within the frame of an international conference.

'Dangerous Colonial Dimensions'

JN0502111090 Baghdad INA in English 1010 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Baghdad, Feb 5, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily of Baghdad called the Arabs to confront the new wave of Jewish emigration to occupied Palestine and abort its dangerous colonialist dimensions.

A daily commentary here today said all possible means should be employed to check and contain this emigration by intensifying activity of Arab information on the international arena by recalling that Zionism was condemned as a form of racism and equal to nazism and fascism.

The daily stressed that giving access to Jewish emigration contradicts with the international human stances that support the Palestinian right and work for finding a just and lasting settlement to the Palestine issue.

The daily referred to the necessity of supporting the Palestinian uprising with all available means for continuing its struggle against zionist occupation and spread its activity on the entire occupied territories, a matter that would lead to exhausting the Zionist entity and consequently rescinds the Zionist justifications for this emigration.

The daily added that the new wave of Jewish emigration reflects the reality of the Zionist expansionist greeds in the Arab land adding that this emigration was also prompted by the absence or weakeness of the Arab role which seems to be unable to face Zionist activities and their propagandist and luring role in encouraging this emigration.

Likud Central Committee To Meet 12 Feb

TA0602081290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0800 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] The Likud Central Committee will meet on Monday [12 February] at 1600 [1400 GMT] at the Tel Aviv congress center.

Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir and Minister Ari'el Sharon a few minutes ago agreed on this. Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports regarding the agenda, the differences of opinion remain; the only issue that has been agreed upon so far is the prime minister will open the session with a speech, after which a debate will be conducted. As for the central question of the number of proposals that will be brought to the vote, the dispute over this question remains.

U.S. Holding Assurance Letter To Bolster Shamir

TA0602073590 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 6 Feb 90 p A1

[Report by political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar]

[Excerpt] Secretary of State James Baker has a conclusive, final draft of a letter of assurances for Israel, which does not include most of the Israeli Government's requests.

U.S. sources have reported Baker so far has refrained from transmitting the letter to Israel out of consideration for Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's request it be withheld until after the Likud Central Committee meeting.

According to the sources, in their telephone conversation last Wednesday, Shamir promised immediately after the Likud Central Committee convention he would relay his position on the ideas that have been raised to bridge the gaps—including participation in the Palestinian delegation of two deportees and one or two residents of East Jerusalem who also have another address in the territories.

The United States agreed to postpone receipt of Shamir's reaction because administration officials got the impression if Shamir emerges strengthened from the Central Committee meeting, his reaction will be more positive.

Transmittal of the assurance document has been withheld out of fear publication of its contents might present difficulties for Shamir, because it does not include a general promise Israel will not be asked to conduct negotiations with the PLO and provides no guarantee the agenda will be limited exclusively to elections in the territories.

Additionally, the United States does not accept the demand the Palestinian delegation include only representatives from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The United States has made it clear to the Soviet Union, Egypt, and the PLO it no longer has any objection to the inclusion of the Soviet Union in the process, although it emphasized the Soviets must reach an agreement with Israel.

Jerusalem sees this as making Soviet participation conditional upon resumption of ties with Israel. Shamir oppose participation of Soviet observers, even under these terms. The Prime Minister's Bureau has refused to confirm reports on last week's telephone conversation with Baker. [passage omitted]

Reports, Statements on Bus Attack Continue

PLO 'Condemnation' Cited

TA0602072490 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Excerpts] PLO supporters in the territories yesterday published a severe condemnation of the bus attack near Cairo. Such attacks do not serve the Palestinian interests, they said, and the PLO is not responsible for them. Our correspondent in the territories, Arye Gus:

[Gus] Shahir Sa'ad, head of the Federation of Trade Unions in Judaea and Samaria, published a condemnation of his own and distributed it to newspapers and Israeli public figures. We, the Palestinians, it says, reject outright attacks on innocent civilians and take a very grave view of the Cairo attack. Only the enemies of peace could profit from such attacks.

The Palestinian reactions linked the Cairo attack to the need to find a solution to the Palestinian problem. A leaflet issued by the nationalist notables—a term usually denoting the top notables who support the PLO—was published yesterday. It stresses the PLO and its leadership had nothing to do with the attack. The official version in the territories is the Palestinians cannot profit from such attacks because they hurt the chances of starting the peace process.

The nationalist figures' leaflet says: Although there is no distinction between the Israeli victims who were killed in the attack and the innocent Palestinian victims killed daily, there is no justification for Israeli civilians, as opposed to soldiers, to be exposed to terrorist attacks only because they are Jews or Israelis.

The notables, who are not indentified by name but only as PLO supporters, denounced the attack and said such acts do not serve Palestinian interests; on the contrary, they allow extremist elements in Israel to continue the policy of oppression and settlement in the territories.

The right way—and this is an appeal to Israel—is to shake off the hold on the territories and launch a dialogue and a political process which eventually will bring about establishment of a Palestinian state, the leaflet said, side by side with Israel.

[Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 0500 GMT on 6 February adds: "The Islamic fundamentalist Hamas movement praised the killings. Hamas activists in Nabulus used bullhorns in announcing their support for the attackers."

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0600 GMT on 6 February carries the following recorded comments in English by Sari Nusaybah: "I think it is a stab in the back of the intifadah. It has nothing to do with the intifadah. The intifadah is, or is trying to be, a civilian uprising. The use of weapons is unjustified, and we condemn it without referring to who used them and against whom. I do not believe that it, hopefully anyway, will make the influence that we fear it will make. In other words, I hope that on the contrary, the forces working for peace on both sides will continue to do this, not despite what had happened but because of it."

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 6 February, in a report by David Rudge and Joel Greenberg on page 10, adds: "Ghassan al-Khatib, a West Bank leader of the Communist Party, said that those responsible for the bloodshed 'are those who have been obstructing the peace process: the Israeli Government and Shamir'."]

Arens: No Reason To Delay Meeting

TA0502114790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has said there is no reason to postpone the tripartite meeting between the foreign ministers of Israel, Egypt, and the United States because of yesterday's murder in Cairo.

Our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz reports these statements were made by Mr. Arens following the meeting conducted this morning by the Likud secretariat.

The prime minister and Minister Ari'el Sharon will meet tomorrow to fix a new date for convening the Likud Central Committee.

Netanyahu Links Jihad, Fatah

TA0502193990 Jerusalem GOVERNMENT PRESS OFFICE in English 5 Feb 90

["Press Conference With Binyamin Netanyahu on Attack on Israeli Bus in Egypt"—GPO subslug, on February 5; place not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Q: In view of what Minister Sharon said this morning, of disconnecting the line between Israel, Egypt, and the PLO, what would be your reaction this statement?

A: I have not heard Mr. Sharon's statement. My own view is that we have said to the Egyptians, as we have said to the Americans, as we have said to the entire world, "don't expect from the PLO to live up to its promises." It said that it will abandon terror, a year ago. Since then it has escalated terror, not only against Jews, but against Arabs. And those who will wait for the PLO to reform, those who wait for this beast to be domesticated will be continually disappointed. It will not, it has not, and I am afraid it gives the kind of legitimacy to these kinds of attacks by garnering support internationally for what it calls "the armed struggle." What it calls "the armed struggle" is no different from what you have seen here. They too try to kill innocent people, they try to attack Jews and Arabs alike who would make peace and coexistence possible.

Q: Some of what you have said suggests that you suspect quite strongly that the PLO was involved. Is that the case?

A: No, I didn't say that I knew who was involved. I am saying that we have a statement made by the Islamic Jihad, the most recent statement. We don't know if such telephone calls actually indicate actual execution of the crime. But at least the Islamic Jihad wishes to be identified with this act. And the Islamic Jihad itself has elements which are closely tied, even on personal links, close ties with elements of Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah. I am not thinking of the PLO umbrella organization, I'm not talking about splinter groups, or side groups, I'm talking about the mainstream element of the PLO, Yasir 'Arafat's Fatah. It has people who are closely linked with people in the Islamic Jihad who made this telephone call. And they themselves took responsibility for this action. Whether they did it, I do not know. But I do know that they are proud, that they boast that they have done it. And it tells you something about their values and the kind of people that we are dealing with here.

Air Force Plane Arrives With Dead

TA0502194290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Excerpt] The Air Force plane carrying eight bodies of those killed in a bus attack in Egypt arrived in Ben-Gurion Airport in Tel Aviv this evening. A short ceremony was held at the airport with an Army rabbi officiating. The bodies were then taken to Tel Hashomer Hospital. [passage omitted]

Soviet Envoy Condemns Attack

TA0502120090 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Dr. Georgiy Martirosov, the head of the Soviet consular delegation representing the Soviet Foreign Ministry in Israel, has strongly condemned the terrorist attack in Egypt yesterday, calling it a barbaric act of terrorism.

Our Haifa correspondent Qobi Mandel reports in a meeting with the mayor of Haifa, Martirosov pointed out the Soviet Government and President Gorbachev condemn terrorist attacks of the type that took place yesterday. The reception for the head of the Soviet delegation at the Haifa Municipality began with a moment of silence in honor of the dead.

Egyptians Capture, Release 3 Suspects

TA0502132290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1312 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Here is a report that has just come in: The Egyptian police have captured three people suspected of attacking the Israeli bus yesterday.

All three of them were found possessing forged Saudi passports. Security sources in Cairo, who reported this, have said the three were apprehended in town, but added no further details.

[Tel Aviv Educational Television Service in Hebrew at 1530 GMT 5 Feb adds this report: "The three people suspected of having attacked the bus on the Cairo-Rafah road were released about an hour ago from detention in Egypt. This was reported a few minutes ago from Cairo."]

Sicarii Said To Avenge Attack

TA0502134390 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] A man who presented himself as a Sicarii spokesman has contacted ITIM's Jerusalem office and announced the following a short while ago: A bomb was planted on the Temple Mount. It is to go off within the next 2 hours. It comes to avenge the horrible crime in Egypt. This was the Sicarii announcement made to ITIM. [Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 1400 GMT 5 Feb adds this report: "Police bomb disposal experts have combed the Temple Mount area to find out whether bombs indeed were placed there, regarding the announcement of a man who presented himself as a Sicarii spokesman. The search yielded no finds."]

Basyuni Promises Security Steps

TA0502135390 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1330 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni today conveyed to Foreign Minister Moshe Arens the Egyptian Government's condolences for the murderous attack on the bus to Cairo.

In a meeting that ended a short while ago in the Foreign Ministry, Basyuni promised his government will take steps to assure the well-being of Israeli tourists in Egypt.

Regarding the impact of the incident on the political process, Amb. Basyuni said:

[Begin Basyuni recording, in English] I think this criminal act will give us strongly support to continue the peace process. [end recording]

I believe this criminal act will bolster us in our efforts to pursue the peace process, as only peace can grant us security, and only peace will be able to eradicate terrorism from the face of the entire world, the ambassador said.

Shamir Addresses Knesset

TA0502150390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1407 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Address by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir before the Knesset plenum—live]

[Text] Mr. Speaker, Honorable Knesset: Yesterday, Sunday, 9 of Shebat 5750, at around sundown, a criminal attack took place against a bus transporting Israeli tourists to Cairo.

The attack was cruelly carried out in cold blood by a group of murderers who planned this evil act, and found a civilian, routinely scheduled bus full of peaceful, unarmed, and unprotected travelers easy prey. This murderous attack left Le'a Berdichev, Ze'ev Shiftan, Yisakhar Binyamini, plus seven others dead, may God avenge their blood. Seventeen others were injured.

Mr. Speaker, the entire Israeli public is in mourning today for this horrible massacre. All our daily affairs are made small in view of this painful and tragic reminder from our enemies. The murderers' plan was to kill as many Israelis as possible, solely because they are Israeli. The heart brims with anger and bereavement at once.

There is anger and wrath at foes whose only objective is to eliminate as many Jews as possible; and deep mourning for the dear men and women who fell victim in the hands of bloodthirsty villains. The Government of Israel shares in the deep pain of the families. We grieve with you with all our hearts, and pray you will find the mental resources and strength to overcome your harsh suffering. May God console you along with the other mourners in Zion and Jerusalem; may you never experience grief again.

To the wounded, we send our prayers and wishes for a speedy and full recovery.

Mr. Speaker, Egyptian President Husni Mubarak called me last night at midnight to express his shock at the criminal and murderous attack, and to convey his sympathies. I thanked him for his comments. At the same time, I would like to point out we regard Egypt as responsible for the safety and well-being of Israelis visiting Egypt. In the past there were other terrorist attacks on Israelis in Egypt, involving representatives of the Israeli representation, tourists, and passersby, plus the killing at Ra's al-Burqa'.

It is inconceivable Israelis should constitute a target, time and again, for assassins who exploit Egyptian soil to carry out their base and murderous schemes. Our demand at this time therefore is the perpetrators of this crime be found, tried as quickly as possible, punished to the full extent of their crime, and in the future, that they do everything within their power to prevent the exploitation of Egyptian soil for such plots.

It is necessary to take all required measures to ensure Israeli tourists in Egypt never again will fall prey to murderers. We further hope the public, media, and educational systems in Egypt will find the way to strongly and openly condemn the criminal act so the revulsion and anguish triggered by the act penetrate into the public conscience and are properly understood. In view of past experience, it is imperative this wish come true.

Mr. Speaker, in the countries and societies surrounding the State of Israel, there are quite a number of elements that plot, scheme, and wish evil, who know only one language: that of violence and terrorism. We have no alternative but to contend with these bloodthirsty people and deal with them firmly and courageously, through unity and determination, until we manage to strike and eradicate these bloodthirsty elements and uproot them.

Unfortunately, in fighting for our existence and rights, we also are required to pay dearly with the casualties and fatalities of innocent people. The sacrifice and bereavement nonetheless will not deter us. We will persist on our way, firm in our belief, and do everything to protect our safety and to maintain peace—a real peace, peace with security, peace without murder and terrorism. Thank you.

Arens on 'Slander Campaign'

TA0502151690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said today the slander campaign conducted by the Egyptian media is not conducive to friendship between Arabs and Israelis, and even could breed feelings of hatred to the point of murder.

Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports Minister Arens made the above remarks in his meeting with Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni, who conveyed to him a condolence message from the Egyptian foreign minister. Amb. Basyuni promised to deal with the matter, and said Egypt will make every effort to capture the assassins.

Bus, Peugeot Drivers Arrested

TA0502205490 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 2030 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Report by Arab affairs correspondent Gadi Hitman]

[Excerpt] The hunt launched in Egypt after the perpetrators of the bus attack apparently proved worthwhile. The driver of the white Peugeot has been arrested, and it was learned he is a Palestinian from Rafah, who 10 years ago had been granted Egyptian citizenship.

The surprising detail—not yet absolutely certain—is that there apparently was a connection between the driver of the Peugeot and the bus driver, the two having made thorough preliminary plans together.

It appears the bus driver suffered no injuries. The attackers, moreover, waited for him to alight from the bus before opening fire on the Israeli passengers. In addition, the bus driver is a Palestinian from Rafah, who apparently also is an Egyptian national, because he drove tourists along the Rafah-Cairo route.

These are the initial details obtained by the Egyptian police who have, by the way, imposed absolute silence on the investigation.

'Ezer Weizman Issues Statement

TA0502210590 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Statement by Minister 'Ezer Weizman on 5 February; place not given—recorded]

[Text] The peace ship is sailing in the right direction. One could argue about the speed or the stormy sea, but at a certain moment, the ship was torpedoed. Although it did not sink, it gradually fills with water. The question here is what the captains of all the countries, particularly of Egypt and Israel, are going to do: Will they help the peace ship to make its way, although it has been hit and damaged, or will they allow it to sink?

I believe Egypt has a vested interest in this issue. Although this tragedy hit us first and foremost—there is no question about that—it also caused considerable damage to President Mubarak's prestige. In fact, from the day Al-Sadat was murdered, very grave things happened to Egypt. It is up to Mubarak to take hold of the situation and to decide whether it will be possible to live in and tour Egypt, or whether various radical circles will makes his life difficult, thereby hindering the peace process.

There is no doubt the peace process was harmed. I hope, however, this only was a delay and not permanent damage.

Comment on Attack's Effect on Peace Process

Mubarak 'Commitment' to Peace

TA0502203290 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 5 Feb 90

[By political correspondent Yig'al Goren]

[Excerpt] The top echelons in both the Likud and the Alignment are in absolute agreement no connection should be made between the disaster in Egypt and the promotion of the peace process. Therefore, political contacts aiming at secure talks between Israel and the Palestinians are being pursued.

We learned tonight Foreign Minister Moshe Arens has asked the United States to set up a preliminary meeting between him and his counterpart, James Baker, before the planned meeting of the U.S., Israeli, and Egyptian foreign ministers. As a precedent, the Foreign Ministry cited the recently conducted preparatory meeting between the Egyptian foreign minister and the top echelons of the U.S. Administration.

The United States, on the other hand, wishes to conduct the tripartite meeting as soon as possible, but it depends on Israel. Israel's reply, in turn, depends on the prime minister's decision on the inclusion of deportees and certain East Jerusalem representatives in the Palestinian delegation.

Now to Egypt's part: Sources in the Prime Minister's Office, the Defense Ministry, and the Foreign Ministry today stressed that, unlike the past, the Egyptians this time made considerable efforts to assist the casualties and to express profound regret over the attack. Mubarak's personal approach to the prime minister and his instructions to provide efficient and speedy treatment for the victims, including blood donations by Second Army soldiers, reflect —according to Jerusalem sources—the continued commitment of both Mubarak and Egypt to the peace process.

'Attack' on Egypt, Egyptians

JN0502165690 Jerusalem in Arabic to the Arab World 1435 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Unattributed "Observation" commentary]

[Text] Terror reared its treacherous head anew yesterday and, true to itself, spilled the blood of defenseless, innocent victims.

Yesterday's gruesome, reprehensible outrage against peace and its gains has provoked the wrath and revulsion of the international community against the perpetrators and sponsors of terror.

The people of Israel yesterday paid a heavy and painful price. These people, however, who never have spared themselves in the cause of their security, sovereignty, and the long road to peace, will heal their wounds and rise above the pain. The Israeli people are nevertheless determined not to be deterred from pursuing their peaceful march, notwithstanding all obstacles in their path.

The Israelis, who have had bitter experience with terror and its perpetrators, never will bow to terror and are resolved to continue this policy. The Israelis have had more than their share of murderous terror in the region and have borne the brunt of the fight against terrorism. But the lesson to be learned is terror cuts across borders and spares no one at all.

While the perpetrators of yesterday's outrage took the lives of Israeli citizens, their crime represents an attack on Egypt and an affront to the peace-loving Egyptian people and their peace-oriented leadership. As the Israeli people nurse their wounds, commiserate with the bereaved, and wish the wounded a quick recovery, they are in no doubt the Egyptian authorities will do all they can to apprehend and punish the criminals, and to crack down on those who want to set back the peace process. Israel, Egypt, and other parties working for regional peace know only too well the enemies of peace never will pass up a chance to undermine and destroy peace. While yesterday's crime was commited with grenades and bullets, there are those who conduct their anti-peace efforts by poisoning the atmosphere, spreading venomous propaganda, and whipping up racist passions.

The identities on both sides are well known, as are their aims. The designations and slogans they use as screens to conceal their crimes will do them no good. No high-minded objective can justify terror, nor can a humanitarian cause excuse the murder of innocents. Every effort hence must be made, and all available means used to root out the plague of terrorism and strike at it in all its forms wherever it originates.

Paper Urges 'Faith in Peace'

TA0502124490 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 5 Feb 90 p 2

[Editorial: "We Should Not Let Them Kill the Peace"]

[Text] The murderous attack on the Israeli tourists on their way to Cairo is a painful and sad event which, with one fell swoop, takes us back to the hatred-filled reality of the region in which we live.

There is no doubt the attack was meticulously planned, and those responsible for it wanted to massacre Israelis, just because they were Israelis.

The attack may have been motivated by the political efforts to conduct an Israeli-Palestinian meeting in Cairo to promote the peace process. The assassins were trying to hurt the fragile peace accord between Israel and Egypt which, unfortunately, has taken a bloody toll on Israeli tourists and diplomats in the last decade.

Our pain and shock notwithstanding, the perpetrators of the attack should not be allowed to attain their goal—that is, to kill the peace and everything for which it stands. The State of Israel must demand from Egypt full responsibility and a commitment to pursue the murderers, bring them to trial, and secure land and air travel routes between the two countries.

We should not let this murderous attack shatter our faith in peace, which is our only chance of breaking out of the cycle of hatred and blood. We should also not let Israeli politicians use the attack for cynical purposes.

The tragedy on the way to Cairo is painful and grievous. The entire nation shares in the deep grief of the victims and their families.

Egypt Acted 'Frivolously'

TA0502121190 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Feb 90 p A1

[Article by Ze'ev Schiff: "Fugitives Wanted by Israel and Islamic Jihad Men Moved to the Area"]

[Text] Israel recently conveyed its concern to Egypt, after intelligence sources learned Islamic Jihad members and many wanted men from the Gaza Strip who were involved in sabotage and murder had begun moving to Egypt.

The assessment last night was those who attacked the Israeli bus came from among these groups, but may have enjoyed the cooperation of opposition elements in Egypt. Even prior to the attack, the feeling in Israel was the Egyptians could have done more to neutralize these extremist groups.

Egypt's intelligence services concentrated their efforts on the activities of fundamentalist groups liable to endanger Egypt's internal security. In contrast, they behaved frivolously when it came to a possible attack on Israeli targets in Egypt or across the border in Israel. That is why Israel decided to draw their attention and voice its concern over what was happening.

In the wake of Cairo's decision to embrace the PLO, Egypt became a transit point and a refuge for many terrorist elements. Islamic Jihad men and members of the PLO's security and intelligence apparatus used to travel to Egypt. Some of them even chose to take up residence in Egypt, and the authorities did not stop them. Among those who fled to Egypt are the Islamic Jihad members who murdered Israeli soldiers Sasportas and Sa'adon. The assumption is the men who attacked the military jeep in Gaza and killed two Israeli soldiers found their way into Egypt. The number of "hard-core" wanted men in the Gaza Strip who fled to Egypt amounts to a few dozen.

The latter's main activity was to try to smuggle money, weapons, and sabotage material across the Sinai Peninsula into Israel and the territories. Extremist elements also moved to al-'Arish, and that is why the al-'Arish-Suez Canal road was considered dangerous. These extreme elements occasionally tried to carry out terror attacks and take Israeli hostages, but all their attempts were aborted. The Egyptian security services showed some, usually limited, willingness to cooperate.

The possibility should not be ruled out the failed attempts to infiltrate Israel encouraged these groups to attack an Israeli target inside Egypt, and that is why they chose the tour bus. The perpetrators chose a politically apt time to cause a shock that would hinder the peace process conducted with Egypt's active mediation.

Knesset Defeats Tehiya No-Confidence Motion

TA0502152090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] The Knesset has defeated Tehiya's no-confidence motion by a majority of 28 to five. This is reported by our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen.

Peres Denies Support for Narrow-Based Government

TA0402200690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Finance Minister Shim'on Peres has unequivocally denied he intends to act toward dissolution of the government and establishment of a narrow-based government led by the Labor Party.

Our correspondent Sheli Yehimovitch reports that addressing workers committees, Peres said the reports regarding his intention to set up a narrow-based government are nothing but fairy tales worthy of Hans Christian Andersen. He added: I am worried about the fact suits are being sewn with imagined gossamer, rather than cloth.

Our correspondent notes the workers committees with which Mr. Peres met wanted to thank him for his intervention in the Kur [ailing Histadrut concern] crisis.

33 Percent Support Deportees' Presence at Talks

TA0602075790 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Report by party affairs correspondent Yaron Deqel]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] A secret poll has been conducted by elements in the constraints ministers camp. They claim several hundred Central Committee members were asked to answer seven questions:
1. Will you support the prime minister's proposal to vote only on his statement? 50 percent for; 50 percent against.
2. Are you in support of quelling the intifadah before any negotiations begin? 90 percent for.
3. Do you support the proposition political decisions will be made by the six Likud Inner Cabinet ministers, who will form a sort of decisionmaking forum? 80 percent for.
4. Are you in favor of raising additional issues at the Central Committee meeting? 50 percent for; 50 percent against.
5. Are you in favor of holding a vote of confidence in the prime minister? 65 percent for.

Here come the two questions whose results came as a big surprise to the organizers of the poll—namely, elements in the constraints ministers camp:
6. Are you in favor of allowing deportees to participate in the negotiations? One-third of the Central Committee members for; two-thirds against.
7. Are you in favor of allowing East Jerusalem resident to participate in the elections? 40 percent of the Likud Central Committee members said: Yes.

It should be stated again these are the results of the poll as presented by those who commissioned it. Incidentally, it is not clear whether they operated with the knowledge of the three constraints ministers: Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i.

This morning, after Shamir and Sharon meet, we will know when the Central Committee will convene. The disagreements remain as they were before in the Likud top echelons.

Sharon Comments on Likud Poll, Baker Letter

TA0602100290 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Telephone interview with Industry and Trade Minister Ari'el Sharon by Mikha Friedman and Goni Mardor—live]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Mardor] Are there disagreements between you and Prime Minister Shamir?

[Sharon] There are no disagreements whatsoever on the issue of convening the Central Committee as soon as possible. I believe we can reach the point where there also will be no disagreements on the substantive issues with which the convention should deal. Were the policy we are being asked to support today and in the future clear to us, it could transpire there are no problems at all. Mr. Shamir can get the full support of all the Central Committee members for a policy of stopping—and this time for real—violence and terror. Mr. Shamir can get the committee's full support for a resolution on Jerusalem, preventing the Arabs of East Jerusalem from participating in the talks or the elections that will take place. Mr. Shamir can get the support of all the committee members if there is a clear resolution on a policy that says no deportees should be incorporated in the process.

[Friedman] Yes, but if the results of the poll our correspondent Yaron Deqel reported a while ago and which you heard are true, then Shamir has, or at least there is, broad support by some 65 percent for holding a vote of confidence, while 40 percent favor allowing residents of East Jerusalem to participate in the process and one-third favor the participation of deportees. Shamir therefore need not refrain from putting these issues to a vote, or at least including them in his speech and winning the vote of confidence.

[Sharon] As I said, Shamir can win the support of all of the committee members, provided we know what policy we are being asked to endorse. We do not know that today. As for the poll: I have not seen it; I do not know who commissioned it. I find it inconceivable Central Committee members of the Likud—which is a national movement with clear and well-defined stands—have any doubts concerning the issue of East Jerusalem. Each of them understands if East Jerusalem Arabs are allowed to participate, it would mean East Jerusalem is no longer an inseparable part of the State of Israel. I think this is more a misunderstanding than a true, substantial issue. All the Likud Central Committee members, I believe, are unequivocal on the issue of East Jerusalem Arabs participating in the elections. I find it hard to believe any of them would support the notion of deportees in the process. Who are these deportees? For the past few days we have been hearing of deportees involved in terror outside Israel. They are active PLO members who were deported as a form of punishment. Can they be partners for talks?

[Mardor] Mr. Sharon, is there a chance that because of the time-out you now have, you and Mr. Shamir will reach an agreement on the agenda by the time the committee convenes?

[Shamir] I would be very glad to know our policy is based on those points I have noted, and which we all understand very well. If this is the policy, and we are certain of that...

[Mardor, interrupting] I will ask you again: Can you and Mr. Shamir agree on the agenda?

[Sharon] This is precisely what I am addressing, and it depends on what I have just said. I furthermore am very surprised to hear the Central Committee convention is linked to the meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Baker. What is the relevance, what is the connection here? Is there an attempt to hide or not decide something before the meeting is conducted? Is there a fear something may be revealed at the meeting between Baker, our foreign minister, and the Egyptian foreign minister, things which could make the convention of the Central Committee difficult? What is the connection between the two?

[Friedman] Mr. Sharon, I would like to bring to your attention, as well as to the attention of our listeners, a report in this morning's HA'ARETZ by its political correspondent 'Aqiva Eldar, which says Secretary of State Baker has already drafted his reply to the assurances Israel is seeking from the United States, but, at Shamir's request, Baker only will deliver this document after the Central Committee convenes, out of fear its early release might make things difficult for Shamir. Eldar further says the United States rejects most of the assurances sought by Israel.

If this is true, you and your friends have a very high interest in waiting with the convention until you have exact information on the U.S. stand on the issues of East Jerusalem Arabs and the deportees and on whether Yitzhaq Shamir accepts or rejects it. Is this not correct?

[Sharon] I believe it is far more important Mr. Baker know the stand of Israel's largest political movement, which heads the Israeli Government. That is why I see no link here, and I find it inconceivable someone is trying to hide certain issues from Inner Cabinet members, from government ministers, or even from members of his own movement, only to make it easier for him in an internal political fight inside his own party.

[Friedman] You used to maintain information is being kept secret from you, did you not?

[Sharon] Inner Cabinet members are not aware of correspondence, debates, discussions, and developments. I know it is hard to believe, but to this date the Inner Cabinet has not conducted a single political debate on possible political solutions to the problems of peace, which we all want and to which we all aspire.

[Mardor] A few minutes ago you told us you want the Central Committee to convene as soon as possible. Will you not demand you be shown Baker's letter of assurances before that?

[Sharon] I have no reason to link the two. I demand the exchange of letters between the Israeli Government and the U.S. Administration be presented to the Inner Cabinet, because it is responsible collectively and should have all the information to make decisions. What is the connection between the two? What if it becomes apparent Mr. Baker is not willing to give Israel assurances? Should this affect our decisions? Should we back down on our demands or change the direction of the political process? What is the connection between the two?

[Friedman] Minister Ari'el Sharon, thank you very much.

[Sharon] Thank you.

Arens To Depart for Prague 8 Feb

LD0402113290 Prague Domestic Service in Slovak 1100 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Israeli Minister of Foreign Affairs Moshe Arens today confirmed officially he would leave for Prague on Thursday [8 Feb]. In our capital he will take part in a ceremonial reestablishment of diplomatic relations between Czechoslovakia and Israel.

Charter Flight Agreement With GDR Planned

TA0502141090 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Feb 90 p C1

[Report by Zohar Blumenkrantz]

[Text] The East German Interflug airline will begin offering charter flights to Israel, perhaps as early as March.

These will be direct flights from East Berlin for the FRG travel agency Untrareisen.

Huzi 'Ami'el of Amiel Tours, the Israeli representative, said last night implementation of the program still requires the approval of the Transportation Ministry's Civil Aviation Administration.

According to the plan, the flights will involve a 130-seat Soviet aircraft. Up to now, charter flights took off from West Berlin. Untrareisen operated flights last year from West Berlin to Frankfurt and from there to Israel. This was arranged through El Al. Charter flights previously flew directly from West Berlin to Israel.

According to Amiel Tours, in anticipation of the spring and summer seasons, an agreement has been reached with the FRG company to resume ties and direct charter flights from East Berlin to Israel via the GDR airline.

Nazareth Resident Given 13 Years for Espionage

TA0502123490 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 5 Feb 90 pp 8, 9

[Report by Moshe Tuv-El]

[Text] Munir Fathi Sa'id, 30, of Nazareth was convicted yesterday by the Nazareth District Court of aggravated espionage against the State of Israel and was sentenced to 13 years in prison.

A three-judge panel, presided over by Yosef Bahalul, convicted Sa'id of making contact with enemy countries.

He was charged with meeting a foreign agent on numerous occasions between 1981 and 1988, handing information to the enemy, and working in the service of an unauthorized organization.

Sa'id comes from a very large family in Nazareth. He was caught on 18 January 1989 by the Shin Bet. His trial was conducted behind closed doors, and he was represented by Attorney Arye Licht from 'Afula.

Update on Incidents in Territories 4 Feb

TA0502141390 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 5 Feb 90 p 11

[Report by Mikhal Qedem and Oren Kohen]

[Text] Mahmud Abu-Razal, 54, of the al-Mughazi refugee camp and a member of the regional council of refugee camps in the Gaza Strip, was shot dead yesterday by unidentified men. He was suspected of collaborating with Israel.

His son said he heard a shot, and soon after found his father bleeding on the ground. The man was taken to a hospital in Khan Yunus where he died of his wounds. His body was transferred to the Abu-Kabir Forensic Institute, and the police launched an investigation.

Arab sources said nine people, including two children from Khan Yunus, were wounded in scattered riots yesterday. Others were wounded in the refugee camps of Rafah, Jabalyah, and al-Mughazi. Official military sources reported three people wounded were yesterday.

The curfew on the Khan Yunus refugee camp was lifted yesterday morning. Arab sources said soldiers arrested 15 wanted men during the curfew.

There were few clashes in the Tulkarm refugee camp, but a four-year-old boy was hit in the leg by a rubber bullet.

Two firebombs were thrown at Israeli cars and soldiers in Nabulus. One of the cars ignited, but no one was hurt and no damage was caused.

On Sunday night Ratib Yasir Haziniyah from Qabatiyah was struck in the neck by a plastic-coated metal marble and was taken to a hospital in Janin. Arab sources said another three inhabitants also were hit by these marbles. Sixteen-year-old Siras al-Diyab and 18-year-old 'Ammar Kamal were hospitalized in Janin after being struck in the chest by rubber bullets. Official military sources yesterday confirmed two inhabitants of Janin and one of Qabatiyah had been wounded in stonethrowing incidents.

The Army yesterday clamped a curfew on Kafr Thulth in Samaria and began an investigation into the kidnapping of 35-year-old Rasiq Shawana, who was known to be a collaborator and has not yet been found. Curfews remain in effect in Bayt I'nan and al-Qubbah. Last night the Army imposed a curfew on 'Anabta to look for the men who pelted an Israeli car with stones and slightly wounded the driver.

[Writing on the same page, Eddy Gal adds "Jamal Shaykh 'Ali, a 30-year-old resident of Janin who has been living in 'Akko for the past year, was seriously tortured during the weekend on suspicion of being a collaborator. Thirty-year-old Samir Aswad, a resident of 'Akko, was arrested in connection with the attack." In a report by Ayelet Mazor and Uri'el Ben-'Ami, Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew on 5 February adds "20-year-old I'tidal Nazir Khalil Sha'b from Khan Yunus' al-Najjar neighborhood was stabbed and hacked to death last night by five masked individuals. Her body was taken to al-Nasir Hospital in Khan Yunus. The reason for the murder remains unclear."

["Forty-year-old William Hanuna from Bayt Sahur was seriously wounded yesterday after he refused to stop at an Army roadblock." "Two schools were closed yesterday, one in the village of al-Khidr in the Bethlehem District and another in Janin, after students threw stones at vehicles and Army patrols."]

Unrest Prompted 25 School Closings in Jan

TA0402175690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] The Gaza Strip Civil Administration during the past month closed 25 schools in which disturbances had been staged.

Brigadier General Arye Ramot, head of the Civil Administration, met today with Gaza Strip notables, including Muslim clerics, whom he told if disturbances in schools continue, he will be obliged to close down the entire Gaza Strip education system.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports the conversation with the notables was designed to engage their assistance in a public relations effort to explain to the population the defense establishment is determined not to allow any disturbances on school premises.

23 New AIDS Patients in 1989; 100 Total in 80's

TA0402175790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] In the past decade, 100 persons in Israel contracted AIDS, 57 of whom died. Last year, 23 new patients were recorded.

Our correspondent Rina Matzliah learned from the Health Ministry there recently has been a drastic decline in the number of people undergoing tests for AIDS antibodies.

For the first time, a baby with AIDS was diagnosed last year in Israel. It was born to a parent who also carried the disease.

IDF Pursues Stone Throwers; Youth Killed

TA0502202490 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1830 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] An Arab youth from al-Birah was killed today after falling from a roof in downtown Ramallah.

Arab residents said the 15-year-old youth fled from soldiers who were dispersing stone throwers in the town's Clock Square. He tripped on the roof of the five-story building, was critically injured, and died of the injuries in a Ramallah hospital.

Our correspondent in the territories, 'Ido Shargil, reports an investigation has been launched into the circumstances of the death.

Bus Attack Said Result of Israeli Intransigence

JN0602083590 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 6 Feb 90 pp 1, 12

[Editorial: "This Continuous Mourning in Israel-....Why?"]

[Text] News reports say there is mourning in Israel over the killing of 11 tourists who were heading to the Arab Republic of Egypt.

More than one previously unknown organization claimed responsibility for the attack. Washington views the incident as an attempt to torpedo peace efforts. Reactions to the incident were numerous and discrepant. None of these reactions, however, addressed the root of the problem, as if the entire world, led by the superpowers, wants Israel to continue its mourning, just as Israel wants this mourning to continue.

We are not gloating over this incident, although thousands of Palestinians and Arabs have been killed by Israeli bombs and missiles which were indiscriminately fired on children, elderly people, women, and students.

Why does the fighting continue? Why does Israel from time to time have to announce national mourning?

Wasn't there a similar incident involving an Israeli bus inside Israel? A Palestinian youth frustrated by Israel's deceptive talk about peace, freedom, and democracy was responsible for attacking an Israeli bus in Israel. He found his only salvation in causing as much damage and harm as possible to Israel.

Does Israel want to bring all the Arabs living between the farthest point in the ocean and the most remote point in the Gulf region to their knees and to make them accept its existence and hegemony so it can pretend to be generous by speaking about Shamir's election plan?

Does Israel want to bring the Egyptian people to their knees and make them bow in respect and humiliation over the fruits of peace it bestows on Egypt and the Egyptian people; that is, the poisons and drugs? Does Israel want this humiliation to result in seeing the Egyptians extending their hands joyfully to receive Jewish tourists on Egyptian territory?

The two bus attackers might not be Egyptians—it was said they did not speak with an Egyptian dialect. They might be Arabs from anywhere in the Arab homeland who just wanted to remind people that Greater Israel only can be built on the dead bodies of Israelis.

We do not know who carried out this operation. Neither are we aware of its objectives. We have deep feelings, however, about the tragedy of the Palestinian people in their homeland—the tragedy that has been going on for more than 40 years. Throughout this period, Israel has not even condescended to recognize this people's rights, particularly their right to self-determination and to establish an independent state on their national soil. We hope Israel will hear the Arabs' call for genuine peace before it is too late.

King Husayn, Al-Asad Discuss Jewish Emigration

JN0602131690 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn and His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, president of the Syrian Arab Republic, have exchanged viewpoints on several Arab issues, the wave of emigration of Soviet Jews to Israel and the attempt to settle them in the occupied Arab territories, as well as the latest international developments and their repercussions on the Arab nation. This came during a telephone call His Majesty King Husayn received from His Excellency President al-Asad this morning.

Writer Sees U.S. 'Hypocrisy' on Immigration

JN0502050090 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 4 Feb 90 p 20

[Article by Dr Sa'd al-Din Ibrahim, secretary general of Amman-based Arab Thought Forum: "Hypocrisy Galore"]

[Text] Two contradictory statements emanated from official Washington on 31 January: The U.S. State Department official spokeswoman "condemned settling Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union in occupied Palestinian territory, warning of the consequences of Israeli settlement activity on the Middle East peace process, and noting no American financial assistance will be forthcoming toward that end."

The second story from Washington was fiscal 1990-91 envisaging $3.5 billion for Israel and $2.1 billion for Egypt. Israel's share is up several hundred million dollars compared with last year's.

Never has American hypocrisy reached such heights: How can the United States be unhappy with an aspect of Israeli policy—dubbed the crime of the age by leading writer Ahmad Baha'-al-Din—and yet allocate massive aid to Israel? Aren't the Americans thus implicitly endorsing the settlement of hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews in occupied Palestinian land?

If it is not possible to denounce the United States as a stupid nation, the epithet of hypocrite certainly fits. It seems U.S. utterances are designed to allay Arab fears and, in the meantime, give lavishly to Israel to promote the latter's criminal schemes.

The United States apparently still is under the impression Arab governments and peoples soon will calm down and reconcile themselves to the status quo. Washington seems to reckon—just as Israel has during the last 40 years, with U.S. connivance, gotten away with its crimes—this time around it also will be let off scot-free.

The occasions on which the U.S. Administration has condemned Israel during the last five years are innumerable: Israel's theft of strategic data from the United States (the Pollard scandal); Israel's involvement in drug trafficking; and Israeli support for Latin American dictatorships and the Mafia gangs implicated in this destructive [drug] trade. Far from applying any meaningful pressure to stop such Israeli felonies, the United States has limited itself to oral expressions of displeasure, and American aid continues to flow as generously as ever. Even when the world community has occasion to condemn Israel for some crime, the U.S. veto is brandished to thwart the UN Security Council.

The state budget is perceived by experts as the most important political document of a given nation, its items serving to indicate the country's domestic and foreign policies. If this criterion is any indication, then U.S. policies cannot be judged to be averse to settlement of Soviet Jews in occupied Palestinian territory, official U.S. statements to the contrary notwithstanding. Funds, technology, food, and weaponry are key instruments of U.S. foreign policy. The United States never has balked at using these tools to put its foreign policy around the world to work—whether with such a major power as the USSR or a small state, such as Panama.

If the United States really were opposed to Israel's settlement activity in the occupied Palestinian territory, it would have invoked one of the instruments at its disposal.

Even the statement by the U.S. State Department's official spokesman shows disdain and negligence to the world and the Arabs. Israel first receives most of its U.S. aid in cash and includes it in its general budget, then spends from this budget according to the priorities it sets for this purpose. Saying the "United States will not extend financial aid" to the Israeli settlement plan is "empty talk" in the full sense of the word. This is because it extends full aid to various Israeli activities without stipulation. This aid totals $1,000 per year for each Israeli man, woman, and child; while it is $40 for each Egyptian.

U.S. aid to Egypt is not granted in cash as with Israel, but most of it is allocated for specified purposes, which the Egyptian Government cannot change. The aid Egypt receives in cash does not exceed $200-300 million per year after a give and take process. The United States often uses this kind of aid in an attempt to pressure Egypt to respond to IMF instructions. The United States thus uses two different standards; one is very generous for Israel, and the other extremely stingy and cautious for Egypt.

Back to the negligence and disdain to the Arabs and the world regarding Israel's crime of settling the Soviet Jews in the occupied Palestinian territories: the United States did not stop at increasing aid to Israel, but has given it something much more important than aid; namely closing the doors to Soviet Jewish emigration this year to the United States. The United States has criticized and harassed the USSR because of its past policy of restricting the emigration of Jews and other Soviet citizens.

Until last year, when the USSR used to allow a small number of emigrants to leave the country, most of these immigrants used to refuse to go to Israel and preferred to go to the United States, whose doors were open for them. As of mid-1989, however, the USSR opened its doors wide for the immigration of Jews and others, and the United States closed its doors in the face of these Jews to force them to go to Israel. Until last year, one out of six immigrants left for Israel, and the other five preferred to go to the United States. So, closing the doors in the face of the Soviet Jewish emigration means implicit support for, and even real collusion with the Israeli plan to settle them in the Palestinian territories.

The pretext the United States used to close the doors to Soviet Jews' emigration was they no longer are "political refugees", but they willingly emigrate from the USSR, and they are not exposed to any political pressures in their country.

This is extremely hypocritical U.S. logic. When the USSR allowed a small number of Jews to emigrate, the United States accused it of violating "human rights,"—of course, Jewish human rights—to defame it all over the world, and use the weapons of wheat, technology, and others to pressure it. When the USSR submitted to this pressure, however, the United States closed its doors!

The Israeli plan, which has been openly and frankly announced by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, is to settle a million Soviet Jews in the occupied Arab territories during the nineties, at a rate of 1,000 immigrants per year [as published]. Since the population in the West Bank now does not exceed 1 million, and because what is left to them only is a small area because of the continuous Israeli swallowing of their land throughout the last 20 years, it is impossible to absorb 1 million Soviet Jews in the West Bank without uprooting the same number of Palestinians and expelling them from their country.

This means evicting the West Bank's legitimate owners. Israel's practices became clear during the last six months of 1989. It doubled the demolition of Palestinians' houses on various pretexts. It also doubled expulsions of women in the age of pregnancy, 20-45 years, along with their children, from the West Bank.

So by expelling those women and children, Israel kills several birds with one stone. First of all, it eliminates the vital childbearing sector of society. Second, it eliminates the childen who are contributing to the revolution of stones. Third, it eliminates the fathers, who will follow their wives and children, whether in the near or distant future. Fourth, it opens the way to newcomers from the Soviet Union and prevents the Palestinians, who leave the West Bank to visit their relatives and parents, receive medical treatment, work, or receive education in Jordan and other Arab and foreign countries, from returning.

This Israeli scheme is, indeed, the biggest crime of the age by any standard. It is a social crime against a people who have suffered many crimes before; it is a denial of the humanity of the Palestinian people, by depriving them of their simplest rights; that is, their right to live on their land and the land of their forefathers, for which they have no alternative.

We are not talking here about the Palestinian people's right to self-determination, but only their right to remain on their land, even if their freedom was chained up by occupation armies. Israel is planning, however, to deprive them even of the simple right to exist under occupation. Look who is helping Israel? The United States, which used to raise a hue and cry whenever the topic of human rights was discussed.

The arrogance and disdain of this crime has gone so far as to give the Jewish individual double the rights an ordinary human being enjoys anywhere in the world. For example, this Jewish individual has the right to live inside his birthplace (for example, the Soviet Union) enjoying all his rights. This Jewish individual, furthermore, has the right to emigrate from his birthplace; he has the right to immigrate to the occupied Palestinian territories; he also has the right to one of the generous subsidies granted by the United States to the Israeli Government to settle in the occupied Palestinian territories. To the best of our knowledge, no other human being of any religion or nationality has all these rights, including the American individual himself. The latter might have the right to leave the United States; however, he does not have the right to settle wherever he wishes. Even if he finds a place to settle outside his country, he will not get a generous subsidy to finance this settlement.

In contrast with all the doubled rights granted to the Jewish individual, a right more humble than any of these has not been given to the Palestinian; that is, the right to live and exist.

Depriving the Palestinian individual of this right is for the sake of adding a special right to the Jewish individual—who is foreign to the Palestinian land; that is the right to uproot the Palestinian individual from his home and land to make way for the Jewish individual.

Is the story of "God's chosen people," recurring once more at the expense of a new setback for the Palestinian people?

If the Arab governments are incapable of preventing the crime of the age by force, then the least they can do is to resort to the Security Council, the International Court of Justice, the European Economic Community, the Soviet Union, the U.S., and every international forum, to apply all the pressure they can to stop this new historic crime.

We call on Egypt, specifically President Mubarak, to stop all his much-appreciated attempts to advance the peace settlement, and direct all his efforts to stop this imminent crime. Shamir has procrastinated for more than two years to foil all President Mubarak's initiatives. He will procrastinate for another 10 years before agreeing to negotiate. When this happens, there will be nothing to negotiate over; instead, there will be 1 million Soviet Jews in the West Bank, and 1 million Palestinians uprooted from the West Bank.

What Shamir (or his successors) will negotiate, then, is the "welfare" assistance to find a way settle the 1 million Palestinians uprooted from the "West Bank" in the "East Bank" or in any Arab country. In fact, we do not rule out the possibility of Israel putting pressure on the United States to absorb those uprooted Palestinians in their capacity as "politcal refugees." For its part, and in response to this pressure, the U.S. might acquiesce to this as a gesture of respect for "human rights,"—and what an irony of fate that would be!

Stopping the settlement of Soviet Jews in the Palestinian territories is the most valuable assistance Egypt and every Arab government could provide for the Palestinian cause this year and in coming years. As for the rest of the Palestinian rights, the children of the stones are able to tackle them, no matter how long it takes.

King Addresses Parliamentarians on Regional Issues

JN0402210590 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Excerpts] This morning—in the presence of his majesty the king, supreme commander of the Armed Forces, and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan—cabinet ministers and members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament visited the Armed Forces to acquaint themselves with their duties in defense of the homeland. [passage omitted]

His majesty the king addressed the gathering, expressing his happiness to meet with them there at the military site in a brotherly atmosphere. He said the Army officers had presented an idea of the challenges facing the country, with which most of the two Houses' members are familiar. His majesty said he hoped the meeting would be followed by similar field visits so that the members of the two houses of Parliament could acquaint themselves with what is going on along the longest confrontation line [with Israel] and at the most dangerous sites.

His majesty noted the hope that the leaders of the superpowers would become convinced of the futility of continuing the arms race. The costs involved in this race, his majesty added, lay heavy burdens on all the peoples of the world.

His majesty went on to say that because of recent international events, there was a tendency to focus on crisis areas in the world to the exclusion of our region. He said this has happened despite the fact that the

Middle East is an important area constituting a bridge between Africa and Asia and is close to Europe and posseses great potential.

His majesty said that the Iraq-Iran conflict has not been settled yet and a state of no-peace, no-war continues between the two countries. His majesty added he believed serious, sincere efforts had not been exerted to establish normal relations between Iran on the one hand, and Iraq and other Gulf states on the other.

His majesty alluded to the Lebanese crisis, which is witnessing a fresh escalation, and also the Soviet Jewish emigration, which poses a serious threat to Arab strategic depth and the entire Arab order.

His majesty stated that Jordan would never bargain over one inch of Arab Palestinian land, despite the pressures against the Kingdom. His majesty recalled that our ancestors were able to defend this land against the Zionist onslaught with their heroic struggle. His majesty added that Jordan will never bargain over what is right, and will serve its nation with all the means at its disposal.

'Izz-al-Din Describes Talks With Mubarak

JN0602073590 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Ibrahim 'Izz-al-Din, information minister and acting foreign minister, has said he will convey an oral message to His Majesty King Husayn from His Excellency Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on the various developments the Arab world is experiencing.

In a statement to JORDAN NEWS AGENCY, PETRA, upon departing from Cairo to Amman this afternoon, 'Izz-al-Din added he delivered a message from His Majesty King Husayn to President Mubarak inviting him to attend the meetings of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] Supreme Council, which will be conducted in Amman 24 February. 'Izz-al-Din said he communicated King Husayn's impressions on current developments to President Mubarak and listened to his views and ideas. He added: We now are going through a very delicate stage, and there is great anxiety over Israeli settlement and the Soviet Jews' immigration to occupied Palestine at this stage. 'Izz-al-Din noted he conveyed Jordan's concern about this issue to President Mubarak, and they discussed the Lebanese question, as well as all Lebanon is being subjected to at this stage.

Asked if the ACC leaders will discuss urgent topics in their forthcoming meeting in Amman, 'Izz-al-Din replied: There is a specific agenda which depends on the Ministerial Council's recent meetings in Baghdad; naturally, all Arab developments will be discussed at the leaders' meeting. He added he discussed with Egyptian Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif the enhancement of all aspects of cooperation in the information field between Jordan and Egypt, and possible participation in specific programs, along with the exchange of programs and news on a larger scale.

'Izz-al-Din was seen off by Safwat al-Sharif and the Jordanian ambassador in Cairo. He also attended graduation ceremonies presided over by President Mubarak for flight officers at an Egyptian air base.

Diplomatic Relations With Guatemala Established

JN0302111690 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 3 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Amman (PETRA)—Jordan and Guatemala have signed an agreement providing for establishing diplomatic relations, Foreign Ministry said. It added that the agreement, going into effect Jan. 31, provides for nonresident diplomatic representation.

House Approves 1990 Budget; Badran Speaks

JN0302205190 Amman Television Service in English 2000 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] The Lower House of Parliament voted for the fiscal budget of 1990. The vote was 52 for and 16 against. The vote came after a marathon session during which deputies voted on each provision contained in the budget. Earlier, the deputies concluded their debate of the fiscal budget during the morning and afternoon sessions.

The early session of the Lower House of Parliament was held under Deputy Speaker Jamal al-Sarayirah and in the presence of Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Cabinet ministers. Eleven deputies delivered speeches at the session. They gave their remarks on the 1990 fiscal budget and the demands of their constituencies. They called on the government to cope with the difficult conditions in the country represented by the indebtedness problem. They stressed the need to support the Armed Forces, public security forces, education, subsidy of basic commodities. Some deputies remarked that the economic correction program has not yet borne fruit as it was hoped. They also called for measures to overcome unemployment and lower commodity prices. The deputies stressed the need to reactivate investments in the public sector and supervise the activities of public institutions which are financially and administratively independent. The House adjourned and later held its second session under Speaker Sulayman 'Arar, who returned from Baghdad.

The afternoon session was addressed by the Minister of Finance Basil Jardanah, who answered remarks contained in the Financial Committee's report. He also replied to questions raised by deputies during their debate of the budget. In his reply, the minister spoke about servicing foreign debts and rescheduling them as well as on Arab assistance. He tackled all sectors of the national economy.

In his reply to the deputies' remarks, Prime Minister Mudar Badran noted that the comprehensive economic reform program is a national scheme representing the kingdom's policy of self-reliance and dependence on its own potentials. He said the program has not been imposed on Jordan by anyone and it is untrue that the program aims at servicing the creditors. The program, he added, has helped the government to reschedule a large part of foreign debts, something which gave way for adaptation and the resumption of the national growth at acceptable rates. He said the government would maintain the same subsidies it gave last year to staple commodities. Mr. Badran said the government gives special attention to the civil and military sectors, as they constitute the base for its function and achievements, but he said an increase in salaries of civil and military personnel could increase the deficit in the budget and increase indebtedness.

The prime minister put forward several solutions to tackle the question of unemployment through organizing the country's labor market, increasing investments, the exportation of local services, and development of training and rehabilitation institutions. Mr. Badran also outlined his government's policies in dealing with prices as well as its investment and agricultural policies.

'Food Strike' Ends at Government Hospital

JN0502140090 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 5 Feb 90 p 3

[By Ghadir al-Tahir, JORDAN TIMES Staff Writer]

[Excerpt] Amman—A "food strike" at one of Amman's largest hospitals appeared to have ended Sunday [4 February] after the authorities met the employees' demands for reinstatement of better quality food and "regular" portions.

"It seems that the management has agreed to reverse its decision about the food served to the staff and patients because today the menu is better than last Thursday," when the issue triggered employees' protest action, said a doctor working at Al-Bashir government hospital.

The doctor was one of the few who trickled into the hospital cafeteria Sunday evening after staying away for three days in a protest against the reduction in the quantity of food. Almost the entire staff were reported to have staged a hunger strike Friday.

According to a management source at the hospital, "there is no problem anymore; everything has been settled."

The strike was triggered when employees noticed a "sizeable decrease" in the quantity of the meals served to them on Thursday, several doctors at the hospital said.

According to information available to the JORDAN TIMES, the reduction in quantity came after a contract between a catering company and the Al-Bashir Hospital ended Jan. 31, and the National Medical Institution (NMI) assumed direct control of the staff cafeteria, which serves over 800 meals every day to the hospital's doctors, nurses and general staff.

Under the terms of a new contract, the original contractor, Wecare, is now in charge of preparing and serving food; the "basic products" are supplied by the NMI. The previous contract had assigned the total catering operations to Wecare.

"Now the National Medical Institution is in charge of catering, and another company is involved," said two doctors who spoke to the JORDAN TIMES on condition of anonymity. However, the food was described by many staff members as of low quality and little until Sunday evening.

"This evening it is better," said one of the doctors. "The quality is good and the quantity served is also almost normal," he said.

No authoritative spokesman for Wecare was available for comment.

However, one of its staff at the cafeteria asserted that "only a few of the hospital employees had stayed away." But this was immediately challenged by several members of the staff who said "everybody showed solidarity and boycotted the cafeteria."

Explaining the reasons behind the NMI's original decision to reduce the quantity of food served at Al-Bashir Hospital, an NMI source said that earlier it used to cost JD [Jordanian dinar) 1.40 per meal at the hospital, "but now with the devaluation of the dinar by over 40 per cent and rising food prices the same meal is costing JD 2.80." According to a source close to the dispute, "obviously, the NMI wants to maintain the JD 1.40 price so it reduced the portions and quality in order to remain within its original budget.

"But, the net result was reduced food portions, which the 800 or so employees of the hospital protested with their so-caled 'food strike'," said the source, who preferred to remain anonymous.

The source said the NMI move to assume control of catering applied to all hospitals under its control. But no counter moves were reported from other hospital any other than Al-Bashir Hospital.

Al-Hirawi Discusses Conflict, Arab Aid to Lebanon

JN0502194890 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 4 Feb 90 p 9

[Interview with Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi by Rafiq Nasrallah in Beirut—date not given]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] AL-ITTIHAD: Does the legitimate government in Lebanon, which you represent, intend to intervene in the fighting in East Beirut through the Lebanese Army under General Emile Lahhud if the tragic situation there persists?

President Al-Hirawi: First, the Lebanese Army under Gen Emile Lahhud serves the whole of Lebanon. He appealed to the army institution—an institution we respect and appreciate—on the basis of this fact. Its officers and members pledged their allegiance to the homeland and the flag and not to an individual or dictator. Undoubtedly, if the situation continues, there will be intervention on behalf of the citizens in the eastern sector, not on behalf of one or the other. [passage omitted]

AL-ITTIHAD: Mr President: What will you ask of the Arab summit, if it convenes soon? And do you still intend to tour Arab countries? [passage omitted]

Al-Hirawi: I will ask the summit for continued support for Lebanon, not only regionally, but also internationally. Let it be known that we are a state and not a farm. It is no secret to the sisterly states, especially the well-off ones, that after the tribulations of 15 years, we are in dire need of political and military aid to build up our Army and security forces to be able to impose our authority over all Lebanese territory. Before we can ask the security we have borrowed to leave Lebanon, we must form an alternative and give the Lebanese people peace of mind.

We are embarking on a comprehensive development plan for all areas of Lebanon. This plan will be applied equally in all areas. In light of our financial and economic situation, we need the sisterly states to whom God has granted wealth to help Lebanon overcome these difficulties and enable us to rebuild the state and provide the Lebanese citizen with his daily needs—such as electricity, water, telephone lines, roads, and irrigation projects—so that he can go back to his land.

AL-ITTIHAD: Mr President: There are signs of Arab accord—Egyptian-Syrian rapprochement, Syrian-Palestinian dialogue, mediation between Iraq and Syria—what sort of repurcussions could this rapprochement have on the Lebanese crisis?

Al-Hirawi: Lebanon, the weaker body and the younger brother of the Arab countries, used to be the arena for past Arab disputes. Whenever Arab rapprochement took place, Lebanon heaved a sigh of relief. We rejoice over any Arab initiative that results in accord. We are very optimistic about the rapprochement between Egypt and Syria. We are also optimistic about Arab mediation in the region. Everyone should know for certain that any Arab rapprochement gives us a ray of hope to overcome our tragedy. Here, I say this very frankly to the sisterly states: Before you help any party in Lebanon, whether a militia or otherwise, save this aid for the Lebanese state and people so that we can start implementing development projects. The Lebanese people need them desperately. We will be grateful to everyone and shall publicly name the states that help us. [passage omitted]

AL-ITTIHAD: Concerning your relations with Washington, you recently mentioned open dialogue with the U.S. Administration. Did you get any promises on a special U.S. role to support the legitimate Lebanese Government?

Al-Hirawi: So far, we have been in constant contact with the U.S. Administration. All the results are very satisfactory. The recent events surrounding our embassy in Washington, and the official U.S. response, provide clear and sufficient evidence that the U.S. Government, which supports our legitimacy, will continue along the same path. The negotiations with the Americans do not concern the current Lebanese situation, but the future situation in the south. I believe that the U.S. Government is the only party capable of helping us in this regard. [passage omitted]

AL-ITTIHAD: There have been reports that Arab military aid is to be given to the Lebanese Army.

Al-Hirawi: I said I would ask the brothers for political, economic, and military support for the reasons I mentioned earlier, to enable the authorities to extend their power, and send 10,000 soldiers to southern Lebanon to implement the international resolution [UN resolution 425]. So far, we have had positive responses, but have not yet received anything. I hope they will get here; in fact, I insist on the arrival of this military aid. [passage omitted]

Lebanese Forces Source's Statements on Conflict

Calls for Resistance to 'Awn

NC0202133490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] An official source of the Lebanese Forces [LF] has made the following statement:

Since the beginning of this battle, which the Lebanese Forces have been forced to fight to defend themselves—'Awn having left them no other recourse but to resort to arms in self-defense after he decided to abolish them and sought to implement this decision by military means; as a result of the efforts carried out by highly placed diplomatic, spiritual, and political figures to arrange a cease-fire; after the Lebanese Forces responded to this by immediately observing the cease-fire; and while political and spiritual efforts are being intensified to consolidate the cease-fire, the 'Awn group embarked this morning on the largest-scale effort to destroy residential neighborhoods, where innocent civilians reside, since the beginning of the war.

These acts of bombardment were accompanied by a broad offensive against Lebanese Forces positions and barracks in northern and southern al-Matn and Beirut in a desperate attempt to implement 'Awn's decision to abolish the Lebanese Forces, even if partially, by military means.

The Lebanese Forces regard 'Awn current actions as an attempt to destroy the free areas.

If his goal has been to use the Lebanese Army to destroy the Lebanese Forces, then he has really destroyed the army. If his goal is to raise his group's morale, then this cannot be done by the devastating bombardment of innocent residents. The army's objective must be to defend the people, not to kill them. The army's objective must be to defend the free areas, not destroy them. The army's objective must be to liberate Lebanon from foreign armies, not to kill itself in a mass suicide directed against its units and society alike.

The Lebanese Forces, which have accepted and observed the cease-fire and committed themselves to halting media campaigns, ask 'Awn: Why this escalation? What will all this destruction and damage accomplish? What is the reason for all this madness?

The military situation has become clear in the field and it absolutely cannot be altered in his favor no matter what tools of destruction and fire he uses. Neither he nor anyone else can abolish the Lebanese Forces.

The Lebanese Forces warn 'Awn and tell him: Enough killing, and enough damage. The citizens have tolerated enough at the hands of foreigners for the past year and for the past 15 years.

The Lebanese Forces tell all our comrades in the Lebanese Army: If someone is pushing you to collapse and suicide for his own personal interest, why do you comply with this insanity? Say no to criminality, shelling, and destruction. Say no. The free areas have enough room for everyone. You are our brothers and dear comrades in these areas. Your role is basic. Say no and do not be drawn into the game of destruction and death, into the game of suicide for this society which has resisted for 15 years and never imagined that it would be destroyed at the hands of a man who is obsessed by a lust for power and who has no qualms about carrying out any act to secure it, even if he can do this only over the dead bodies of everyone.

Responds to 'Awn Claims

NC0402200990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] A responsible source in the Lebanese Forces has responded to a statement made by an 'Awn source on the current situation. The Lebanese Forces' source said:

1. The source claims that the Lebanese Forces were the ones who sparked off the war. At a minimum, we can say this claim is counter to reality and facts. The Lebanese Forces were dragged into this war from a purely self-defensive stance when 'Awn decided to abolish the forces and started to implement his decision by force.

2. Saying that the Lebanese Forces tried to allow the Syrians into the liberated areas is a false accusation. The Lebanese Forces have not established any relationship with Syria, while everyone is well aware of the contacts that 'Awn has made and continues to make with the Syrians. The last of these contacts took place nearly a month ago when he was trying to guarantee the presidential post. Ministers Muhsin Dallul and Albert Mansur, as well as a number of envoys, are witnesses to this. He who withdrew all the units of his army from the confrontation lines with the Syrians is preparing circumstances suitable for them to enter by opening the fronts to them. But the Lebanese Forces have kept all their personnel in all the positions facing the Syrians.

The Lebanese Forces, who have been dragged into the struggle which they tried to avoid, announce that they will defend themselves regardless of the sacrifices. The Lebanese Forces reiterate their commitment to defending the free areas and Lebanon against any attempts to control it either by the Syrian Army or by any foreign state.

Further Reportage on 5 Feb 'Awn-LF Conflict

Death Toll, Executions Reported

NC0502063490 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Excerpts] The war for hegemony and power in the eastern area entered its 6th day today. Fierce battles have been raging on the outskirts of al-Ashrafiyah since 0500 today, after clashes and artillery shelling had abated at midnight and the fighting had been limited to intermittent clashes on the outskirts of al-Ashrafiyah, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, and Badaru. [passage omitted]

Preliminary reports say that over 200 persons have been killed so far, with the number of injured exceeding 700. More than 30 persons were killed yesterday alone, most of them in al-Dubayyah. In West Beirut, which has also been affected by the bestial shelling, six citizens were killed and more than 30 injured. [passage omitted]

'Awn's group has executed a number of army officers and soldiers who refused to obey the command's order to open fire on the Lebanese Forces and engage in the battles and who were ready to join the barracks of the legitimate army under General Emile Lahhud. The reports also said that other officers had been arrested after their houses were occupied and their families insulted and threatened.

For their part, the Lebanese Forces also liquidated a number of fighters in Upper al-Matn on charges of failing to defend the al-Fanar barracks, plotting with the 'Awn group, and being loyal to Amin al-Jumayyil. The Lebanese Forces also arrested family members of guards of the Bayt al-Mustqabal [Phalangist Party headquarters], alleging that the guards handed over the building on Wednesday without defending it.

Residential Attacks Continue

NC0502064390 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0545 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Having failed to achieve any military advance in the al-Dubayyah battlefield, 'Awn has continued his attacks against the Lebanese people until this morning. A concentrated artillery bombardment of residential areas in al-Ashrafiyah is currently under way, and the Kasrawan coast is coming under intermittent artillery fire. The areas of 'Ayn al-Rummanah, al-Ashrafiyah, al-Dawrah, the area surrounding the Lebanese Forces general headquarters, and al-Matn and Kasrawan coasts came under intermittent fire throughout the night.

Intermittent skirmishes and artillery fire are reported in residential areas in al-Dubayyah, following 11 foiled attacks by 'Awn's groups which had been withdrawn from the confrontation lines with the Syrian enemy and massed at the approaches to al-Dubayyah, in an attempt to achieve a military advance.

'Awn Attacks Subside

NC0502091590 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] The attacks which 'Awn's clique has been launching against the eastern area for five days have subsided. They are now reduced to incidences of intermittent bombardment of al-Ashrafiyah, Badaru, Furn al-Shubbak, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, al-Matn and Kasrawan coasts, and al-Dubayyah.

A fire broke out in the Yasu' al-Malak area in Zuq Musbih as a result of the artillery fire directed at Kasrawan this morning. The fire is threatening the people in their homes and shelters. Civil defense and firefighting teams are asked to head for the area to put out the fire.

Military Situation Updated

NC0502112790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Clashes involving rockets and machineguns are raging on the Antilyas-al-Dubayyah and 'Awkar-al-Dubayyah combat lines. There is also fierce fighting on the Nahr al-Mawt combat lines; two tanks belonging to the 'Awn group which were shelling residential areas were destroyed on these lines.

Intermittent clashes are also taking place in the 'Ayn al-Rummanah-Galerie Sim'an area. Five shells fell on al-Ashrafiyah at 1145, and several more fell at 1300.

In West Beirut, reports said that two shells fell on the Qasqas area this morning.

Sources Cite 'Awn Advance, Plan

NC0502132890 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Security sources told our radio this morning that, in 12 hours of repeated attacks yesterday, the al-Yarzah forces ['Awn's forces] were able to take hold of the most crucial Lebanese Forces positions in al-Dubayyah. It is known that the Lebanese Forces have barracks, educational institutions, a major armored unit, and a special troops unit in that area.

The sources said that al-Yarzah forces have seized the contents of the national fund.

This morning, al-Yarzah troops made fresh attempts to advance from their new positions in al-Dubayyah and the nearby hills in the direction of the hills overlooking Yasu' al-Malak, aiming to take control of Nahr al-Kalb and its tunnel. The attempts are taking place under cover of artillery shelling of the Lebanese Forces positions in Kasrawan.

At noon today, 'Awn's radio said that al-Yarzah forces have taken control of the coastal area near the Nahr al-Kalb tunnel and al-Dubayyah.

According to military sources, 'Awn's current plan is to engage the Lebanese Forces positions in al-Ashrafiyah, al-Karantinah, and al-Dawrah in exchanges of fire without any attempt to advance in that direction. At the same time, 'Awn is to concentrate on gaining control of Kasrawan areas. His current plan is to cut off al-Kaslik and Juniyah from the south, that is, from the direction of al- Dubayyah and the hills overlooking Nahr al-Kalb, and from the north, that is, from the direction of Casino Lubnan, where 'Awn forces are positioned near the Casino Lubnan and in Tabarja, al-Safra', al-Buwar, and Kafr Yasin, and also from the north, that is, from the direction of the Adma barracks, where special troops as well as Dani Sham'un's militiamen have taken up position.

The military sources maintain that al-Yarzah forces have taken control of the line extending through upper al-Matn, Bikfayya, and al-Qalay'at, adding that the Adma barracks have been fortified.

The sources say that 'Awn is no longer in a hurry to wage a battle over the Lebanese Forces headquarters in al-Karantinah now that the Lebanese Forces cannot obtain any more supplies except by sea. The superior fire power of the al-Yarzah forces prevents the Lebanese Forces from bringing more vehicles and heavy weapons to their positions to compensate for the losses sustained in the battles of the last few days.

Well-informed sources have revealed that the Lebanese Forces attempted a naval operation on the night of 3-4 February, but this operation failed because al-Yarzah shelled the harbor.

LF Deny 'Awn Claims

NC0502133990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1215 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] The Lebanese Forces 5th Branch issued a statement today saying that certain pro-'Awn information media fabricate lies about the Lebanese Forces. They distort facts and invent incidents. The Lebanese Forces 5th Branch would like to emphasize the following:

1. All Lebanese Forces combat units are firm in their positions, defending them bravely and effectively.

2. The 'Awn group has failed to defeat any of our military posts and has not achieved any military victory, despite the desperate assault attempts launched yesterday in which they massed most of their forces and equipment.

3. The Lebanese Forces fully abide by their command's orders to confine their action to self-defense and repulsing attacks on their posts. Despite compliance with the defense plan, they have inflicted heavy losses in lives and equipment on the 'Awn group.

4. The fabricated reports circulated by the 'Awn information media are aimed at raising their collapsed morale. They are a desperate attempt to distort the image of the valiant Lebanese Forces fighters. These false reports are of a type that cannot deceive Lebanese public opinion.

'Awn Forces Resume Attacks

NC0502140890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Despite the repeated calls for a cease-fire, the latest being at 1430, the 'Awn group has resumed its attacks against the residential areas and launched an offensive against 'Ayn al-Rummanah this afternnon. The Lebanese Forces units confronted the attack and violent clashes took place along the Camille Sham'un boulevard-'Ayn al-Rummanah front.

Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' earlier declared his readiness to observe a cease-fire, and ordered his men to abide by the appeal made by Bishop Khalil Abu-Nadir, Abbot Bulus Nu'man, and Attorney Shakir Abu-Sulayman.

Officers Executed by 'Awn Group

NC0502155090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1515 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] It has been learned that acting on 'Awn's direct orders, his group has executed several officers and military men who refused to slaughter their own people, destroy their homes, and fight their own brothers and comrades. The executions follow the arrest of senior officers on claims of disloyalty to 'Awn. According to other information, 'Awn has ordered his cliques to collect the young men in the areas under his control to fight his absurd battle against his own people.

Three Killed in West Beirut

NC0502173690 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] West Beirut and the Southern Suburb have still not escaped 'Awn's shelling. According to reports, the al-Laylakah and al-Shiyah areas in the Southern Suburb came under indiscriminate shellfire today. The shelling left three dead and at least five wounded. Baha'-al-Din al-Khuri was wounded by machine gun sniper fire and taken to al-Maqasid hospital. At 1600, five artillery shells fell in the al-Barbir-Bisharah al-Khuri area in West Beirut.

'Awn Troops Sustain Losses

NC0502180290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] 'Awn cliques launched a wide-scale attack against 'Ayn al-Rummanah shortly after 1430 today. The Lebanese Forces and the residents of this bastion of steadfastness confronted the attack heroically and bravely. The cliques retreated, leaving behind many dead and wounded and losing much equipment and hardware. The offensive came a few minutes after a cease-fire agreement that was supposed to have gone into effect at 1430. The Lebanese Forces declared their commitment to the agreement. Presently, 'Awn cliques are attacking the residential areas in al-Dawrah, 'Ayn al-Rummanah, Badaru, al-Dubayyah, and the al-Matn and Kasrawan coasts.

Military Situation in East Updated

NC0502194690 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Whenever a cease-fire agreement is declared, the 'Awn cliques hasten to violate it and to continue their aggressions against the eastern area. The latest such violation is the intermittent shelling of the areas of 'Ayn al-Rummanah, al-Judaydah, al-Dubayyah, and the outskirts of the Kasrawan coast. The military situation on the ground is as follows:

The al-Dubayyah axis is under the control of the Lebanese Forces, with the exception of two positions: The National Fund Institution and the housing project, in which there are no military units, only families. 'Awn groups attempted to advance again on the al-Dubayyah axis today, but to no avail. The military positions there are still under Lebanese Forces control. A military source in the Lebanese Forces general staff has invited journalists to verify this situation.

Along the 'Ayn al-Rummanah-Camile Sham'un Boulevard axis, the Lebanese Forces repulsed an offensive by the 'Awn cliques from the direction of Madame 'Awn Secondary School today, causing heavy losses of life and equipment among the attackers.

Ja'ja' Calls for Halt

NC0502220090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1910 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] In a statement this evening, Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' said that all the parties concerned with the current crisis in the eastern area are required to follow their conscience and to stop the bloodshed that has been continuing for six days, ever since war was declared against the Lebanese Forces by announcing the decision to abolish them.

Dr. Ja'ja' called for a halt to the destruction of the neighborhoods, villages, and towns, which are being brought down on the heads of their residents. He added: What the eastern area is currently experiencing is much worse than what it has gone through in 15 years of war or what foreign occupiers have done to it. He added: We all need each other, so what is the use of this fighting? Why this insistence on the repeated attempts to abolish us using all the means we sorely need for our true battle?. We must safeguard all our resources and energy, and it is impermissible to exhaust them in this absurd and dishonorable war.

Dr. Ja'ja' concluded by saying: I address an appeal to everybody to preserve all our capabilities and energy in order to be able to confront the occupation forces in Lebanon and to complete the march of [word indistinct] Lebanon. Despite what happened and despite the magnitude of the losses incurred by our society, it is still not too late to adopt a conscientious stand that could halt this war, which is destroying everyone, particularly since the challenges facing us require everyone's efforts.

Eastern Fighting 'Noticeably Eased'

NC0502204490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] This evening media sources for the Lebanese Forces affirmed that the Lebanese Forces are maintaining their positions, defending them heroically and effectively. They said that the 'Awn group has not been able to seize any of these positions and that the reports disseminated by 'Awn's media are trying to raise the morale of 'Awn's forces.

Tonight a pro-'Awn television station showed a number of prisoners from the Lebanese Forces who said that the al-Yarzah forces are providing them with food and treating them well. The television said that these prisoners are undergoing rehabilitation in order to return to civilian life.

At the beginning of its newscast tonight, the television accused the Lebanese Forces of carrying out indiscriminate, destructive shelling, while the al-Yarzah forces are carrying out (?selective) shelling. The 'Awn sources said that the al-Yarzah forces are in control of the al-Dubayyah-Antilyas-Nahr al-Mawt line and are continuing to take more ground from the Lebanese Forces' in the al-Dubayyah area.

According to the latest security reports, the intensity of the clashes in East Beirut has noticeably eased since 2000 today. Only skirmishes involving automatic weapons and rockets, particularly on the 'Ayn al-Rummanah lines, are still taking place.

'Awn Forces Reattack Al-Dubayyah

NC0502210090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2035 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Despite the tripartite good offices committee's affirmation of the cease-fire decision and the Lebanese Forces' approval and abidance, 'Awn's group suddenly opened fire from tanks on al-Dubayyah and 'Ayn al-Rummanah tonight. Long-range artillery was used in the shelling.

Army, Lebanese Forces Reach Cease-Fire Agreement

NC0502122790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1217 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] We received the following report a short while ago: Bishop Khalil Abu-Nadir, Abbot Bulus Nu'man, and Attorney Shakir Abu-Sulayman have announced that as a result of the constant contacts they have been holding during the past tragic hours with the Army command and the Lebanese Forces command, a cease-fire agreement has been reached between the two parties. It will take effect as of 1430 today. They hope that both parties will respond positively to this agreement out of mercy for the people and the homeland. The implementation of this cease-fire agreement will be followed by certain measures that will be announced in due course.

Maronite League Chairman Views Mediation

NC0402083590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Attorney Shakir Abu-Sulayman, chairman of the Maronite League, has said that the Lebanese Forces must remain as long as there is no concrete solution to the Lebanese problem acceptable by everyone and as long as there are militias in other areas of Lebanon. In an interview with the Voice of Lebanon, he said that the Lebanese Forces must remain because they and the army complement each other. The Lebanese Forces must stay within the framework of discipline and complete coordination with the army.

He described the war taking place in the eastern area as a mad war. He warned that this madness is threatening to destroy the country and the cause. No one will be a winner in this war, he said; everyone will be a loser.

Abu-Sulayman explained that the mediation he is undertaking together with Bishop Abi-Nadir and Abbot Na'man has been hampered by the heavy shelling. He said: We demand a meeting at the residence of the papal nuncio or Patriarch Sfayr to discuss the demands, the direction we are going in, and the cause we are defending. He stated that no one can discuss these matters under shelling. He stressed the need for a cease-fire before a discussion of these issues can take place. Abu-Sulayman announced that he supports a multiplicity of parties and views and freedom for all.

Maronite Patriarch Sfayr Makes Another Appeal

NC0502215290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1645 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Maronite Patriarch Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr has again called for the war to end as soon as possible and for respecting the cease-fire. He indicated that the people cannot bear such a war and the tragic situation they are experiencing.

Patriarch Sfayr emphasized the need to honor the cease-fire and called for the establishment of another committee alongside the existing mediatory committee. He said that the task of the second committee will be to deal with the basic problems that must be solved. The committee will present the necessary proposals so that the two parties will not fight again.

Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente stressed the need to observe and stabilize the cease-fire before his departure for Rome this evening for health reasons. He reiterated the need to start immediate negotiations in accordance with the rules he proposed yesterday and added that the Lebanese in general, and the Christians in particular, reject this war. He addressed an appeal in the name of God and his holiness the Pope to end the fighting at once.

[Clandestine Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon at 1730 GMT on 5 February says: "Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente will leave for Rome this evening to hold talks with the officials in the Vatican regarding the developments in the eastern areas"]

Army, LF Committee Formed To Discuss Fighting

NC0502215990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2015 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] In a telephone call to our radio this evening, Bishop Khalil Abu-Nadir, Abbot Bulus Nu'man, and Attorney Shakir Abu-Sulayman have stated that following the cease-fire agreement at 1430 which they sponsored, measures were taken to tackle some of the violations. The cease-fire agreement will be monitored thoroughly so that it can be strictly implemented at all positions, as promised by the officials from the two parties.

A committee was set up to stabilize the cease-fire and to clear up outstanding problems in order to prepare for a meeting by the committee, which will discuss the core of the problems and coordinate the national stands. The commitee comprises Staff Major General Fu'ad Malik, Attorney George 'Udwan, and Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Jubayl from the Lebanese Forces and Brigadier General Fawzi Abu-Farhat, Colonel Michel Rahbani, and Lt. Col. Michel 'Awwad from the Lebanese Army command.

Abu-Nadir, Nu'man, and Abu-Sulayman hope this step will achieve the peace, security, and understanding among the sons of the common cause and homeland, as aspired to by the citizens suffering from this absurd war, for which there is no fundamental reason.

Committee To Meet 6 Feb

NC0502224790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2230 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] It has been learned from a source close to the papal nunciature that Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente has postponed his departure, which was scheduled for this evening, in order to closely follow up on the cease-fire in the eastern area, as well as the work of the joint Army-Lebanese Forces committee to consolidate the cease-fire.

It has also been learned that the committee will hold its first meeting at the papal nunciature in Harisa at 1130 tomorrow.

Sfayr Appeals To Let Committee Meet

NC0602092090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0901 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] A short time ago Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr issued a new appeal for a cease-fire to permit the security committee to hold its scheduled meeting at 1130 today.

Here is a recording of Patriarch Sfayr's appeal:

[Begin recording] After the announcement that a committee from both sides has been formed and a meeting has been scheduled for 1130 today, we very urgently ask prime minister General Michel 'Awn and Dr. Samir Ja'ja' to observe an immediate cease-fire in order to permit the committee to meet. We hear the cries of the innocent citizens. Out of mercy for them, respond to the appeals for succour and give the committee the opportunity to meet. We are using the media to make this appeal in view of our inability to make direct contacts. [end recording]

Committee Accuses Third Party

NC0602094590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Bishop Khalil Abu-Nadir, Abbot Bulus Nu'man, and Attorney Shakir Abu-Sulyman, members of the tripartite mediation committee, are unanimous in saying that there is a third party which is shelling both the Lebanese Forces and the army in order to foil the goodwill endeavors, intensify the crisis, and escalate the violence.

Bishop Abu-Nadir said in a telephone contact with the Voice of Lebanon: We are at a turning point today. If we do not succeed in reaching a result, then I will deliver a statement in the name of people in which I will announce our full commitment to this homeland.

Replying to another question, he said: I say with tears in my eyes that none of us knows who the devils behind these events are, but we are all responsible. He added that the meeting of the mediation committee is still scheduled to be held, and expressed the hope that shells will not prevent this meeting from taking place.

Abbot Nu'man said that consultations designed to calm the situation have so far remained within a local framework, but if the shooting does not stop today, then we are ready to take very firm measures on behalf of the Lebanese who trust us. He added that the papal nuncio postponed his departure yesterday at our request and that the joint committee could not meet yesterday because Brigadier General Fawzi Abu-Farhat, the army's representative in the committee, fell sick.

Attorney Abu-Sulayman also stressed the determination to continue with the committee's mission. He said that the hopes of the Lebanese are pinned on the committee at these critical moments.

6 Feb 'Awn, LF Continued Fighting Reported

Agencies Update Casualty Toll

NC0602060990 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] AFP has reported a new casualty count of the victims of the fighting in the eastern area, saying that more than 274 people have died and 1,132 others have been injured. REUTER reported a casualty count of 260 dead and 1,270 injured.

'Awn Launches New Al-Dubayyah Attack

NC0602060790 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] The security situation erupted suddenly this morning. 'Awn's group is carrying out a major offensive against al-Dubayyah—the 13th such attack on this area—under cover of intensive artillery and long-range rocket fire. Throughout last night and until the early hours of this morning, the situation had been calm except for limited skirmishes along the 'Ayn al-Rummanah and al- Dubbayah combat lines.

LF Repel Al-Dubayyah Attack

NC0602070090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] The security situation deteriorated suddenly this morning when a major offensive—the 13th of its kind—was launched on al-Dubayyah under cover of artillery and long-range rocket fire. At the same time, shells were fired at al-Ashrafiyah and 'Ayn al- Rummanah.

According to preliminary reports, the Lebanese Forces have succeeded in repulsing the attack and strengthening their positions.

LF 'Redeployed' After Attack

NC0602102090 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Statement by the Fifth Department of the Lebanese Forces]

[Text] For the fifth consecutive day, 'Awn's group continued their attempts to destroy al-Dubayyah. Following two days of repeated attacks under the cover of heavy and indiscriminate bombardment, 'Awn's group has been directing 155-mm artillery fire at al-Dubayyah since 0300 this morning. Some of 'Awn's groups, which were withdrawn from the fronts with the Syrians, carried out a large-scale attack on al-Dubayyah today.

In response to the crazy shelling, the Lebanese Forces redeployed in Nahr al-Kalb and the nearby hills. Three Lebanese Forces members were injured, while 15 attackers belonging to 'Awn's groups were killed. The Lebanese Forces also captured seven attackers, among whom were four members of the special forces 2d company.

LF Say Al-Dubayyah Destroyed

NC0602120590 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Statement issued by the Lebanese Forces Fifth Department]

[Text] Agreement on a cease-fire was reached yesterday following contacts by Bishop Khalil Abu-Nadir, Abbot Bulus Nu'man, and Attorney Shakir Abu-Sulayman. A committee from the Lebanese Forces and the Army was formed comprising Staff Major General Fu'ad Malik, Attorney George 'Udwan, and Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Jubayli from the Lebanese Forces, and Brigadier General Fawzi Abu-Farhat, Colonel Michel Rahbani, and Lieutenant Colonel Michel 'Awwad from the Lebanese Army. It was arranged that the committee's first meeting would take place in the house of Attorney Shakir Abu-Sulayman. In the wake of all this, the Lebanese Forces representatives in the committee were told that the army representives would not attend the meeting because of lack of time. A new time for the meeting was set for 1130 today in the papal nunciature in Harisa. But before the meeting was held, the 'Awn group violated the cease-fire and launched a big offensive on the al-Dubayyah area, first preparing for the offensive with an intensive artillery bombardment which caused the complete and comprehensive destruction of al-Dubayyah.

This intensive and destructive shelling once again proves 'Awn's tricks. It also proves his insistence on breaking all promises, particularly those he made to Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente. With his repeated destructive use of artillery, he also shows how he has violated all the laws of war, which are even observed in wars waged between enemies.

'Awn Captures LF Barracks

NC0602121590 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1137 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] According to al-Yarzah command sources, the 'Awn forces have completed their takeover of the Lebanese Forces barracks in al-Dubayyah. The sources added that 'Awn's forces succeeded at noon today in taking control of Dayr Mar Jiriyas al-Burj which overlooks Kisrawan. The al-Yarzah command said its forces are combing the Day Mar Yusuf area.

AFP cited a Lebanese Forces source as saying that all the Lebanese Forces barracks in al-Dubayyah have fallen into the hands of 'Awn's army.

'Awn Statement on Seized Barracks

NC0602131090 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1230 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] 'Awn's cliques issued a statement today saying: Despite the army's commitment to the cease-fire to spare the citizens' lives and property, the remaining gunmen who had been deceived by their insidious command persisted in bombarding the army units, particularly those in al-Dubayyah. The army units were therefore forced to storm their last strongholds in the area, in order to enforce the cease-fire.

The army units have thus eliminated all gunmen who had been in al-Dubayyah and the southern hills of Nahr al-Kalb. This was done after the army's success in entering the following barracks: Yusuf Rahmi, Murqus, the education institute, al-'Unfwan, the naval base, and Villa Sa'b.

LF Deny Attacking Ex-Leaders' Homes

NC0602111390 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] A responsible source in the Lebanese Forces has made the following statement:

At a time when pain is forcing people to denounce everyone, both killer and victim, butcher and prey, the Lebanese Forces wishes to recall the following:

1. Since the start of recent events, the Lebanese Forces have been in a position of self-defense. It is only just and natural that they should stop fighting when the attacker stops his aggression. Hence, the Lebanese Forces' commitment to the cease-fire is complete and basic and is even one of their principal aims. They are seeking with all the mediators to ensure the success of their good endeavors.

2. The Lebanese Forces are the offspring of this society and are entrusted with safeguarding its dignity, livelihood, and life. They cannot under any circumstances participate with the aggressor in extending the time of tribulation and humiliation which has been created by the 'Awn group. Hence, the Lebanese Forces are committed to the cease-fire and only retaliate with the minimum amount of losses when attacked.

3. The Lebanese Forces, in the name of their 10,000 martyrs, in the name of Bashir al-Jumayyil and Camille Sham'un—who, if they had been alive in these bad times would have been at the head of the Lebanese Forces in resisting the war of elimination and annihilation. [sentence as heard] If the 'Awn's media organs have any honor or any knowledge of the sanctity of Christian history, they would have stopped fabricating lies about attacks by the Lebanese Forces on the houses of former presidents Camille Sham'un and Charles Hilu. This needs no reply but pity.

LF Claim Seizure of Al-Safra' Camp

NC0602104490 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Statement by the Lebanese Forces Fifth Department]

[Text] Lebanese Forces units in the al-Safra' area have seized al-Safra' camp. All 'Awn's groups in that area have surrendered to the Lebanese Forces.

Flames Threaten Stored Hydrogen

NC0602112090 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1109 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] The Lebanese Electricity Authority informed us a short time ago of the following: The al-Zuq power plant has been hit by artillery fire. The fuel reservoir sustained a direct hit. Firemen and members of the Civil Defense hastened to put out the flames. The intensive bombardment, however, is preventing the successful extinguishing of the flames. It is feared that if the fire spreads to the plant itself, the stored hydrogen might catch fire, causing a great catastrophe. If this happens, an area within a radius of 10 km will be threatened with destruction. The Lebanese Electricity Authority urges an immediate cease-fire in order to enable the firemen to put out the flames before the danger to all becomes worse.

LF Commander Ja'ja' Addresses Current Situation

NC0602122890 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1210 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' has stated: Apparently the war to abolish the Lebanese

Forces has moved from the stage of abolishing the Lebanese Forces to a process of exterminating the Lebanese People. The citizens, their homes and properties, humanitarian and civilian institutions, vital installations, stores, factories, and other aspects of civilian and social life are being subjected to a war of comprehensive extermination and total obliteration.

The commander of the Lebanese Forces added: What Lebanon is witnessing today surpasses the power of any imagination, any mind, or any conscience. This is something we do not accept, will not accept. We will spare no effort to confront and put an end to it.

The Lebanese Forces have sprung from this society and they struggle for its sake. This is not the first time that they have struggled in defense of this people and this society.

The Lebanese Forces commander said: I promise everyone that we will spare no effort to defend them and to seek diligently to preserve their future and that of Lebanon regardless of the sacrifices. As to you, my comrades in the Lebanese Forces, heroes of the war against foreign forces, and heroes of the peace inside, heroes of confrontation with the foreign forces and resisters of the domestic conspiracy, I address a greeting of respect, veneration, appreciation, and love to you. We are for Lebanon and we will defend it with the last drop of our blood.

Al-Hirawi Orders Army To Resolve Situation

NC0602104790 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1000 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Informed political sources have quoted President Ilyas al-Hirawi as saying that, after consultations with senior cabinet members and the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, he has issued orders to the army command to examine ways to intervene and peacefully end the present situation in the eastern area in a manner serving the unity of Lebanon and the military establishment.

NLP, Cedar Guardians Leaders Under House Arrest

NC0402080690 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0630 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] It is reported that during the clashes which raged in East Beirut yesterday, the Phalangist [Lebanese] Forces seized the headquarters of the Cedar Guardians organization and arrested its leader Abu-Arz [Etienne Saqr] and a number of his aides and family members, and placed them under house arrest. The Forces have also put the members of the family of Dany Sham'un, leader of the National Liberal Party [NLP], under house arrest.

'Free Officers' Address Appeal to Combatants

NC0502064890 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0615 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] The Free Officers group of the Lebanese Army has addressed a new appeal to the army's officers and soldiers, saying: Our battle should be on the front with the enemy occupying our land and the foreigners who want to usurp our homeland, and not in al-Dubayyah, al-Dawrah, al-Ashrafiyah, and 'Ayn al-Rummanah. These are all strongholds of heroism and dignity, which the occupier has failed to cross or desecrate.

The true cause is to fight the foreigner and not the friend, relative, or neighbor. This cause must serve society and its sons, rather than quench the thirst for authority or lust for power of one whom we once regarded as a responsible person. He has unmasked his true face and revealed his deceptive ways.

Al-Huss Appeals for End to Fighting in East

NC0502121490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 0843 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Appeal by Prime Minister Salim al-Huss on 5 February; place not given—recorded]

[Text] My brother in the eastern area: No one could imagine that man could do to his fellow man what these butchers have done to their own countrymen in the name of the homeland, patriotism, sovereignty, and freedom. He who said that you can deceive some of the people all of the time or all of the people some of the time, but you cannot deceive all the people all the time, was correct. They tried to deceive the people by their false slogans. They succeeded with some people for a while, but it was inevitable that their intentions should be exposed in the end. They themselves disclosed their hidden intentions, but this regrettably happened at the expense of the misery and sufferings of the people, something which the enemy could not wish on his own worst enemy.

My brother in the eastern area: I addressed you once before, saying that you will not hear me beating the drums of war. I promised not to declare war on you. I added that, despite this, I cannot guarantee that the war will not erupt in my face or your face, because our experiences during the crisis testify that wars in Lebanon are seldom declared but often break out suddenly, and that there is no guarantee for peace and stability without agreement and unity. It never crossed anyone's mind that the winds of the mad war could blow on you from the direction of those who were blustering about protecting you. In the face of the horror of the tragedy which these butchers of their people engineered, we do not exaggerate if we say that there are beasts in Lebanon who are strutting among the people like human beings. Yes, those who cut off the hands which applauded them and stifle the voices which sang their praises and glories are not human beings. Those who permit themselves to destroy their capital for the eighth or ninth time or who permit the assassination of the security of their society a thousand times in order that the security of their interests, ambitions, and lusts may remain above all considerations are not human beings. We are with the people against all of these persons. We are with the victims against their butchers. We are with the downtrodden against those who crush them. We are with Lebanon, the cause, against all those who want to use Lebanon as a stepping stone. We are with you, brother in the eastern area. We are all with you, sharing your worries, sorrow, concern, and wrath. It is your right to explode in anger when the allegations of their heroism, victories, and achievements descend on you over the waves of the ether to crowd your ears. With you we are searching for a meaning to their heroic acts, but find no fruits of these acts except in your humiliation, coercion, and the pain that is inflicted on you. Their slogans seems to match the size of the homeland and its fate. But the scale of their accomplishments is more appropriate to the quarter, street, and building. They built their glories on claims that they were protecting you and defending the homeland and its sovereignty. What an irony. It is your duty now to hail and applaud whenever one of them advances in this quarter, that street, or that building, even if the advance takes place over dead bodies and debris. It is your duty to hail and applaud when one of them scores points over the other; that is, in terms of the number of victims harvested by them, even though the victims may be peaceful and innocent people.

To those who are outside legitimacy and the law, we say: The rope of insubordination is short. No one who has held on to this rope or counted on it has survived in the history of nations. This rope has reached its limit and the hour of reckoning has struck. If mutiny against legitimacy is a crime, then mobilizing the means of legitimacy in order to strike at it and fight the people is equal to a thousand crimes. Those who involve part of the army in a bestial conflict with legitimacy and the people will find out that they have dug a pit and that they will inevitably be the first to fall into it. The army will be up to the standard expected. It will be united under the flag of the able and just legitimacy. It will be united in defending the unity of society and the homeland. It will show no mercy to those who have tried and are trying to allure some of its members and push them on a road other than their patriotic road.

My brother in the eastern area: We will spare no efforts to alleviate your pains and suffering and save you from tribulation. We have a date with you in a unified and single Lebanon and in the march of accord, peace, and building toward a better and prosperous future. Tomorrow will soon come.

France Appeals for Cease-Fire, Offers Aid

LD0402191890 Paris Domestic Service in French 1900 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Lebanon—This evening President Al-Hirawi said he is waiting for an appeal from the inhabitants of the Christian sectors in order to intervene in the inter-Christian fighting. The fighting between General 'Awn's army and the Christian militia of the Lebanese forces intensified again today—the latest toll is of 198 dead since Wednesday. This evening France is launching an appeal for an immediate ceasefire, the French Foreign Ministry has informed the Lebanese Government. France is ready to send an emergency medical team and to contribute the necessary humanitarian aid within the next few hours.

Humanitarian Official Arrives

NC0502211990 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1730 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Bernard Kouchner, French minister for humanitarian affairs [title as heard], arrived in Beirut today. According to political sources, the mission of the French minister, who arrived at Beirut airport aboard a private plane, is concerned with providing medical supplies to the hospitals and extending assistance in the transfer of some of the wounded in the eastern areas to Paris hospitals for treatment. The same sources did not rule out the possibility that the French minister might be carrying a specific political initiative regarding the ongoing developments in the East Beirut.

Source Denies Meetings With Iraq on Euphrates

JN0502191890 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1745 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] In Damascus, a Syrian Irrigation Ministry source has denied meetings between Syrian and Iraqi delegations recently were conducted to adopt a unified position on the issue of Turkey cutting off of Euphrates waters.

Papers Comment on Increased Fighting in Lebanon

'New War' in East Beirut

JN0202090290 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Press review]

[Text] Gentlemen, today's AL-BA'TH editorial asserts legitimacy is the only guarantee for Lebanon—homeland and state. AL-THAWRAH meanwhile explains the grave events in East Beirut and the need to end quickly the insurrection there.

AL-BA'TH says: The Lebanese people's hopes for security, stability, and unity were thwarted by the narcissism of those who thirst for power and by their connections with Zionist schemes and plans. These only can be achieved if Lebanon loses the essential attributes of a state.

AL-BA'TH refers to the continuing battles of meaningless death started some time ago by the rebel 'Awn, and explains Zionism does not want the Lebanese people to feel safe or achieve stability—so they will not think about the future of southern Lebanon.

The paper says: The purpose of the continuing deadly battles is to turn the Lebanese people into residents of shelters from where they only can think of escaping death. The conflicting interests want the fear of death to become a constant plague threatening the entire people. Whatever the outcome of this conflict of interests, Lebanese determination must triumph. The Lebanese deputies' agreement in al-Ta'if constitutes the step that must be taken.

AL-BA'TH concludes by saying: The legitimate Lebanese Government is the fundamental and strongest element. It is the only power capable of restraining the non-nationalists and protecting all Lebanese—in both West and East Beirut—against danger.

AL-THAWRAH deals with the dangers of new fighting among the centers of power in East Beirut. The paper says: The heavy price for this new war is being paid by the unarmed citizens who recently were subjected to a series of terrorist and oppressive measures against their lives and properties, and who now are being subjected to wars of wagers and selfish and individualistic calculations.

The paper adds: In substance and method, the partitionist scheme is based on destruction, murder, expulsion, and terrorism. This scheme and those peddling it only can be foiled through the language 'Awn understands and through the methods he employs, particularly after all political and diplomatic efforts and precautionary measures have failed to minimize the danger of this scheme or destroy it.

Concluding its editorial, AL-THAWRAH says: Whether the legitimate authorities have used all of their means or not, the chaos in East Beirut calls for a swift—and, at the same time, thorough—action to save the helpless kinfolk and citizens who are subjected to the wars of futile wagers. Just as security and stability are required in West Beirut, they are also required in East Beirut. This is the legitimate government's responsibility, and it will spare no effort or means to make law and order the test for loyalty to the homeland.

Beirut Security Plan Stressed

JN3001081490 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 30 Jan 90

[From the press review]

[Text] Gentlemen: Under the headline "Lebanese Legitimacy Practically Faces Doubt-Casting Campaigns," AL-BA'TH says: The Lebanese legitimacy—represented by President al-Hirawi, the speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, the ministers, and the Lebanese Government—realizes, as it always has realized, the real intentions behind the emergence of voices aimed at casting doubts and driving people to despair. It also realizes the practical response to the deceptive campaigns only can be made through serious action and constant, organized execution of the national reconciliation document, not only on the narrow strip called West Beirut, but on all Lebanese territories from the north to the south.

The paper says: The talk these days about a security plan in West Beirut, and the execution of this plan, is in fact the starting point for implementing the al-Ta'if agreement in full and removing the obstacles facing it, foremost of which is the symbol of the partitionist phenomenon, the rebel 'Awn.

Everyone, both inside and outside Lebanon, has begun to understand he [Al-Hirawi] must unite Lebanon and achieve security in it. Everyone has also begun to understand building Lebanon's constitutional institutions and full independence cannot be achieved under that abnormal phenomenon, which still brings difficulties and pains to Lebanon and its people and threatens to drive Lebanon's future into the unknown.

Papers Deplore Continued Fighting

JN0402103090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Press review]

[Text] Under the headline "The Legitimate Government Seeks to Serve All Citizens of the Homeland," the newspaper AL-BA'TH affirms in its editorial today the battles being fought in East Beirut have created, in four days, tragic and terrible situations that only can be ended through joining the ranks of the legitimate government.

In its editorial, AL-BA'TH says what is taking place in East Beirut is heartrending, as the homeland does not differentiate among its sons. The paper adds: This was affirmed by the legitimate government in statements made by President al-Hirawi since he assumed his presidential duties. As for the path conducive to redemption and salvation, it is clear and paved. It is reflected first and foremost in a popular and military rejection of the crimes being committed against the residents of East Beirut. This path is also represented by joining the march of national accord, the march of peace and cohesiveness in which there can be no room for outside bidders, malicious parties, and those who have mortgaged their positions to the Zionist enemy's dictates.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says: The plight has been prolonged. An end to it has become inevitable. The decisive settlement of this plight has been placed in the hands of the honorable who reject the fall of more victims and further destruction. The vanguards of these honorable people have begun to join the official authorities. In the future Lebanon sooner or later will witness an end to the rebellion which attempted to tamper with human lives and property. These attempts, however, resulted in abominable consequences for those staging this rebellion.

In one of its commentaries, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH comments on the same issue and affirms it is painful and regrettable that in all that is happening the Lebanese citizens and the Lebanese homeland are paying the price of this madness and recklessness. The paper adds: This is happening while the one occupying the B'abda presidential palace and usurping authority in East Beirut believes he currently is implementing a new high-sounding slogan; liberating Lebanon from the Lebanese or liberating the Lebanese people from life and sending them to death in a war designed to advance his own personal ambitions and lust for power, as well as Israel's.

AL-THAWRAH goes on to say: 'Awn and the like are mistaken if they delude themselves into believing any area in Lebanon can fall outside the realm of the legitimate Lebanese Government's concern in particular, or that of Arab Syria in general. Lebanon's borders will remain unchanged, and it always will remain a united country governed and ruled by the legitimate Lebanese Government. Partition, the steps being taken to prepare the grounds for it, and the ideas pertaining to it, are totally unacceptable; and consequently it will be doomed to failure. 'Awn and his clique, however, are on the verge of political bankruptcy and military defeat. He knows he has reached a dead end, and that he is about to fall once and for all. That is why he has chosen to overlook facts and realities and dash around confusedly to wreak havoc in Lebanon.

The paper concludes by saying: This general has begun the process that will bring about his inevitable end. The Lebanese hence no longer have the time or patience to remain silent over his practices. This rebel must be eliminated from the picture of Lebanon's life and future so those kidnapped may return to their people and the legitimate government may return to the hijacked area. It is true what is happening confirms the aberrant situation is in its death throes. It is also true, however, that Lebanon—the legitimate government, the homeland, and the people—no longer is capable of showing more patience.

As for the newspaper TISHRIN, it affirms in one of its commentaries the grinding war in East Beirut, expected to escalate and expand, and the new serious consequences it might create to further complicate the Lebanese crisis, reveal once again the only way to end Lebanon's destruction and devastation is to support the legitimate Lebanese Government and allow it fully to play its normal role in extending its authority over the entire Lebanese soil and to face up to the rebellions and violations which threaten Lebanon's fate, unity, and existence.

TISHRIN goes on to say: If there is anyone who believes he can, through shelling, destruction, and war, obstruct implementation of this [the al-Ta'if] agreement, reject the political solution, and rebel against the Lebanese legitimate government, the response voiced by the legitimate government represented by President al-Hirawi and the national unity government, has clearly shown a determination to end all rebellions, simply because the cliques which are the tools used in such rebellions are viewed as bands of outlaws. The recklessness of these cliques hence must be ended, as they cause tragedies and serious consequences affecting the citizens' security and the homeland's unity.

Concluding its editorial, the paper says: There is no doubt the fact these measures were announced when violent clashes are taking place between 'Awn's clique and the Lebanese Forces in East Beirut acquires important significance. It must be said Lebanon's security is indivisible. Lebanon's security is the responsibility of the legitimate government. Any rebel or adventurer cannot compete with the legitimate government in its shouldering of this responsibility. Lebanese President Ilyas al-Hirawi is the president of all Lebanon. The national unity government besides is a government caring for the entire Lebanese soil. The Lebanese Army, moreover, is the army of the legitimate government. Any departure from these facts is a violation of the law and a rebellion requiring strict punishment of the people, the homeland, and the legitimate government.

Finance Minister Briefs Assembly on 1990 Budget

JN0602054790 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah today conducted a meeting of the assembly.

Mahmud al-Zu'bi, prime minister; Mahmud Qaddur, deputy prime minister for services affairs; Dr Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; and ministers, attended.

The Assembly first heard a statement by Finance Minister Muhammad Khalid al-Mahayini on the state's general budget for fiscal year 1990. The appropriations of the state budget of 1990 total 61.875 billion Syrian pounds. A better proportional relation was achieved between local resources and expenditures in the state general budget, and also among them, the national product, full economic self-reliance, and efforts to develop both the current and investment local resources.

The appropriations of the state general budget of 1990 total 61.875 billion Syrian pounds, including 37.575 billion Syrian pounds for current expenditures, and 24.3 billion Syrian pounds for investment expenditures.

The budget was based on the principle of controlling general expenditures, increasing revenues, and achieving a balance between local resources and general expenditures, and on allocating the necessary funds to carry out productive projects and to employ the available resources, particularly in irrigation, agriculture, industry, oil, mineral wealth, and electricity, in addition to the necessary funds for national defense and education.

The economic benefits estimated for 1990 concerning the economic public sector have been determined based on studying the annual plans and the estimated budgets for each of these areas in 1990.

In studying the financial and computational bases of the draft budgets of the above areas, the budget was based on the data of the productive, trade, and credit plans.

The state general budget is considered one of the most important tools in financial planning, because it is the state's basic annual means to implement economic and social plans to achieve the objectives of these plans in harmony with their general and detailed outline.

Financial policy manages the running of the state and its expenditures to achieve the objectives of economic and social development. Monetary policy manages the circulation of currency in the national economy with the same objectives in mind.

With continued work within the sixth five-year plan to apply comprehensive planning in units and sectors of the national economy and make partial and overall changes, work is continuing to prepare the requirements and constituents of the state's financial plan. This constitutes an indivisible part and a binding condition for implementing the economic and social plan in a manner achieving balance among revenues, expenditures, material and monetary flow, and the semi-total self-reliance on local resources, which totalled 87.6 percent of the gross state budget for 1990.

On the other hand, the mean percentage of local resources, when compared to allocations in the state budget during the years of the fifth five-year plan, 1980-1985, did not exceed 60 percent.

This qualitative jump in depending on and developing local resources is an important indicator that should promote and bolster self-reliance in the development and national defense spheres of the Syrian Arab Republic when it comes to applying the decisions of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party conferences and directives of Leader Comrade President Hafiz al-Asad, party secretary general and president of the Republic.

Submission of the 1990 draft budget to the People's Assembly comes relatively early this year. This is a practical step, as the government promised, the aim of which is to implement the programs and plans defined within this plan.

Concentration has been focused on vital irrigation, agriculture, strategic industry, electricity, water, and transformational industry projects; on completing production projects already started; and on rendering these projects productive to increase production in sectors where new projects already have begun supplementing other existing projects, and to continue implementing services' projects in the remaining sectors to ensure the state continues to provide services and facilities to all its citizens. Heading the list of the latter are projects in education at all levels, health, drinking water, and other basic services. The state also will seek to equalize services among all provinces of the country, whether in urban centers or rural areas, and concentrate on investment projects. After describing the facts in the statement, it became evident self-reliance almost is wholly based on local resources to finance the 1990 draft budget.

The major goals of the national economy at this stage are to tackle major problems and proceed more rapidly with the social and economic development plan, which is based on the directives of President Leader Hafiz al-Asad and the Party conferences' resolutions. The government has defined the means and formulas for reaching these goals.

The government has acted according to these means and formulas in agriculture, irrigation, land reclamation, industry, oil, mineral resources, exportation, and other areas. It took steps leading to financial balance and self-reliance within a set timetable to achieve the desired economic balance. It maintained its policies to absorb excess internal liquidity through varying and expanding opportunities for productive investment in all areas of the national economy. It also continued supporting exports to secure the country's foreign currency needs to implement the development plans and provide basic consumer products for the citizens.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Calls For End to Arms Supplies

LD0502134390 Kabul BAKHTAR in Dari 1130 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Kabul, 5 Feb (BAKHTAR)—Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, received foreign journalists at Gol Khanah Presidential Palace this morning.

The BAKHTAR military section reports that during this meeting esteemed Najibullah spoke in connection with the military and political situation of the country and answered the journalists' questions.

In reply to a question by a foreign journalist on the forthcoming meeting between Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker, and the possibility of an agreement on simultaneously ending the supply of arms to the two sides in the Afghan issue, esteemed Najibullah said that the Republic of Afghanistan believes that an end to arms supply is a major and important issue for ending the war in Afghanistan. Ending the arms supply should be considered a complex issue, and it cannot be done by only two countries; all other countries should also avoid sending arms to the two sides.

Esteemed Najibullah added that in order to end the war, simultaneously with ending the arms supply it is necessary that combat operations should be halted and a cease-fire established. Existing arms dumps should be removed from Afghanistan under UN supervision. Given credible international and legal guarantees, the issue of the demilitarization of Afghanistan should be considered.

Esteemed Najibullah added that the people and the state of the Republic of Afghanistan welcome any decision and resolution taken for a political solution of the Afghan issue which is acceptable to the sides involved in the issue. Of course, the peace proposals of the Republic of Afghanistan and the specific mechanism presented with it can contribute to speeding up the process of a peaceful solution of the Afghan issue.

Sayyaf: Soviets 'Still Engaged in Hostilities'

JN0302152390 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic 1 Feb 90 p 5

[By Yusuf 'Alawnah]

[Excerpt] 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, deputy head of the Afghan mujahidin interim government, charges that the Soviet Union has not withdrawn from Afghanistan and that its forces are still engaged in hostilities there. He further alleged that the Soviets have upwards of 60,000 soldiers in Afghanistan.

Sayyaf told a news conference at the Kuwait International Hotel yesterday that the Soviet withdrawal was more formal than real and that the Soviets have indeed developed fighting tactics. As an example, he said that while the Soviets formerly formed a cordon protecting Afghan cities from mujahidin attacks, Soviet experts now deploy rockets.

So-called northern militias are in fact Soviet soldiers assembled from the Uzbek, Tajik, and Turkmen republics whose peoples speak Persian, he stated. The mujahidin, he added, have irrefutable evidence of this. He accused Western news media of repudiating the mujahidin following the Soviet withdrawal—portraying our successes as failures and the desperate resistance by the Kabul regime as victories.

Sayyaf said: We want to make sure that the blood of the urban population is spared since it would be easy to take control of cities by storming them, but the mujahidin try to avoid bloodshed. Then newsmen and Sayyaf had the following conversation:

[Unidentified reporter] Where does Afghanistan stand on international detente?

[Sayyaf] Afghanistan will not fall victim to international agreements. We cannot stop the world from coming to agreement and reconciliation. The mujahidin will not, however, accept an imported accord.

[Unidentified reporter] What is your position now, and what kinds of proposals are you presenting?

[Sayyaf] The Communists are not a party to the issue, and the whole world has abandoned them. We have prepared an integrated plan for February which will send 2,170 delegates to a Public Shura Council. Two hundred and seventeen of them are to be chosen to make up the parliament.

[Unidentified reporter] Do you still receive American assistance?

[Sayyaf] We have not received assistance other than from Muslims. Non-Muslims who supported jihad did so to further their own interests, and once these were met they withdrew their support. But those who care for the muhahidin objective of an Islamic state still stand by the mujahidin. [passage omitted]

Sayyaf: Dialogue With Hekmatyar Continues

PM3001114090 Jeddah 'UKAZ in Arabic 23 Jan 90 p 19

[Interview with Professor 'Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, "head of the interim Afghan mujahidin government," by 'Abdallah al-'Urayfij in Riyadh; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-'Urayfij] How do you view the Kingdom's and world support for the Afghan issue, and what do you need from the Islamic world now?

[Sayyaf] Undoubtedly, the Kingdom's support and constant backing for the Afghan jihad has been strong compared with that of others. I say frankly that the Kingdom and Pakistan continue to support us sincerely, and we hope that God will reward them for their support for the mujahidin. We also hope that the other states will improve their position and perform their duty as should be. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Urayfij] We would like you to assure us about military conditions on the front. Will we shortly witness the capture of Jalalabad, or do we have to wait until the snow melts, bearing in mind that we have already waited a long time?

[Sayyaf] The military situation is good and there is constant improvement. And we are full of hope that God will delight us with and ensure us a final and complete victory in the near future, God willing.

[Al-'Urayfij] The head of the communist government recently offered the idea of allowing the mujahidin to enter Afghanistan and of holding free elections to enable the Afghan people to determine their destiny and decide the form of their state. What is your position on that initiative, especially as some may interpret your rejection as showing lack of confidence on your part that the Afghan people would choose you?

In the first place, the head of the communist government cannot decide or even speak about the Afghan people's and Afghanistan's destiny. Because he sold Afghanistan and handed it over to the Russians. It was the Afghan mujahidin who recovered Afghan territory—that Muslim country—from the Red Army's yoke and occupation. And we hope they will rid it of the Kabul regime's control. [passage omitted]

[Al-'Urayfij] Disputes are escalating and Hekmatyar continues to suspend his membership of the mujahidin government. How would you assess the conflicts among the groups, which have escalated since the perpetrators of the Takhar incident were executed?

[Sayyaf] At present, thank God, the disputes have started to diminish and we hope we will be able to overcome them completely. With regard to brother Hekmatyar, the dialogue with him still continues. God willing, you will soon hear that he too will confront the situation and there will be be no disputes.

I would like to point out here that the present dispute is merely represented by differing views and ideas that do not affect rules and principles. That is natural among people. God willing, the disputes will not escalate. [passage omitted]

Defense Minister Praises 'Heroic' Armed Forces

LD0502101690 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] Lieutenant General Shah Nawaz Tanay, defense minister of the Republic of Afghanistan, was interviewed by a correspondent of the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY's military section on the political and military situation in the country, the gains of the Armed Forces, and the combat readiness of the units and companies during the period of the independent defense of the country.

The defense minister was asked to give his view on the political and military situation in the country during the period of the independent defense of the country, and on the gains of the units and companies of the Armed Forces.

He replied: As a result of the pursuit of the anti-Afghan policy of the leaders of the armed extremists, despite the constructive peace proposals, initiatives, and comprehensive efforts by the party and state leadership of the Republic of Afghanistan, and as a result of the increased interference by the Pakistan Government and its international patrons, the political and military situation has remained unresolved and complicated. Based on the direct cooperation and signals from Pakistani military intelligence, Saudi Wahhabis, and Western military advisers, the destructive activities of armed extremist formations are increasing and intensifying every day. They try to pursue their anti-Islamic aims by launching long-range missiles and firing heavy weapons at the crowded parts and residential areas of cities and provincial centers, particularly Kabul city.

Since the start of the undeclared war, however, the units and companies of our heroic Armed Forces have firmly replied to all the conspiracies and plots, destructive activities, and savage attacks of the armed extremists and their international patrons, and heroically and bravely foiled their sinister plans. During the period of independent defense of the country, they have fulfilled their combat tasks successfully and have been victorious in battle.

The increased enemy attacks, which were planned against the cities and various garrisons around the country with the direct participation of Pakistani militarists and Saudi Wahhabis, have been foiled; for example, eight enemy attacks on Jalalabad city and 11 savage attacks on Qandahar, Zabol, Khowst, and Laghman cities have been foiled.

Our Armed Forces have protected all the provincial centers and districts; by avoiding passive defense and resorting to active offensive operations they have also reestablished state power in some district centers.

The Armed Forces have successfuly ensured the transportation of material and goods needed by garrisons, Armed Forces personnel, and people in the province; for example we can mention the transfer of a huge supply convoy to the people of Qandahar city.

During this period, as a result of combat operations, hundreds of enemy arms and ammunition dumps, positions, and assembly points were either destroyed or seized by the Armed Forces. On the other hand, our heroic units and companies have gained useful combat experience. As a result of armed opposition forces and groups joining the state authorities, new units and companies have been formed in various parts of the country and have begun their activities.

The defense minister was asked to give some information regarding the level of combat readiness and preparedness of the units and companies of the Armed Forces.

He replied: The heroic Armed Forces, which for a long period and especially during the past year, have stood as a creative and experienced army in the independent defense of the country and played their role in ensuring peace, safeguarding territorial integrity, implementing the military aspects of the national reconciliation policy, and ending war and bloodshed in Afghan land, have now become so mature that can fulfil safely, independently, and successfully the important and great patriotic tasks entrusted to them in the present sensitive situation. They can proudly deal crushing blows to any type of enemy attack.

The combat experience gained during the last 10 years and especially in the course of independent combat operations has played a valuable role in enhancing the Armed Forces' combat readiness and capability. Further conditions have been created for improving their combat capability as a result of close attention by the party and state leadership of Afghanistan. The units and companies of the Armed Forces, with high political and military morale and understanding of their patriotic mission for their country, have been equipped with new and modern weapons and techniques and their ranks have been strengthened with experienced and self-sacrificing cadres. We can say clearly and boldly that our heroic Armed Forces now have the ability and power to foil any sinister and hostile plan of the enemy and deal crushing blows to any type of attack and aggression. They can firmly defend the territorial integrity and national sovereignty of the country, the gains of the national reconciliation policy, and peaceful life of the people.

Kabul Airport Shelled; Flights Cancelled

BK0502150590 Hong Kong AFP in English 1432 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] Kabul, Feb 5 (AFP)—A barrage of at least four mujahidin rockets hit the tarmac of Kabul's international airport, forcing the cancellation of at last two civilian flights, passengers returning from the airport said.

"We were in the plane ready to take off when a rocket hit the tarmac and they rushed us out of the plane and back to the city," said one European aid worker who was about to leave Kabul for New Delhi. He said his plane was just about to taxi at 3:00 p.m. (1030 GMT) Sunday [4 February] when the missile hit, but was unable to say whether there had been any casualties.

No one aboard the aborted flight was hurt, he added, and other foreigners returning from the airport said a Moscow-bound flight had also been cancelled.

Sunday's rocket attack was apparently aimed at, but missed, Kabul's television relay station situated on a hilltop in the city centre which has been a frequent target.

Unconfirmed reports said that earlier Sunday a missile had been fired from within the city limits at a Soviet transport plane, one of many which fly into Kabul daily with supplies from the Soviet Union. The reports said the missile had missed and that the man who fired it was arrested.

An official government spokesman said he could not confirm or deny the reports.

8 Missiles Launched at Kabul; 5 Injured

LD0302163590 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] As a result of launching eight surface-to-surface missiles at residential regions of Kabul city today by the extremists, 5 compatriots of ours were injured and material losses resulted.

The BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section reported that 6 of these rockets were U.S.-made cluster type rockets which, after hitting the ground, scattered 98 antipersonnel mines each.

The report adds that the scattered mines from these rockets were picked up and defused by the security personnel. Those injured in this mishap were quickly taken to the hospital, where they are under treatment.

Rebels Continue Operations; Heavy Losses Reported

BK0302142690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1400 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan speak of the mujahidin's continued operations in Balkh, Konduz, and Faryab Provinces in which they have inflicted heavy losses in men and material on the Kabul regime troops. The news agency MIDIA [MEDIA INFORMATION DEPARTMENT OF ISLAMIC AFGHANISTAN] reports that the mujahidin also damaged several tanks and vehicles in Balkh Province and captured (Asiai Wadrof) base. According to the news agency, the mujahidin also seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition in these operations.

Mujahidin Destroy Cargo Plane in Khowst

LD0102202890 Tehran IRNA in English 1920 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Text] Islamabad, Feb. 1, IRNA—In an attack on Khowst Airport on the night of January 31, Mujahideen destroyed a Kabul regime cargo plane on the ground.

Reports received from Paktia say that the mujahideen attacked the airport using heavy weapons, as a result the cargo plane loaded with military equipment was destroyed.

In the attack, three military officers and three soldiers were also killed by the mujahideen who took five captives.

In related news, the mujahideen used heavy weapons against the Marxist regime's positions in the heart of Gardeyz City on January 29, destroying four tanks.

India

Security Forces Fire on Pakistani Border Crossers

Spokesman Says 'Mob' Retreats

BK0502162590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1540 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] An official spokesman said in New Delhi a short while ago that a number of Pakistanis managed to cross the international border in R.S. Pura sector in the Jammu region this afternoon and set fire to crops. The security forces had to open fire to control the situation in which around 10 people are suspected to have been injured. Following this, the mob retreated to Pakistan carrying the injured.

Giving details of the incident, the spokesman said about 4,000 people gathered in Pakistan across the international border around 1430 [0900 GMT] this afternoon. They raised anti-India slogans and threatened to cross the border into India. The spokesman added that a number of them managed to cross the border despite attempts by Pakistan Rangers to dissuade them.

'Grave Concern' Expressed

BK0602011490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0035 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] India has conveyed to Pakistan its grave concern and deep regret at yesterday's unprovoked incident by Pakistani nationals to cross the international border in Jammu. About 4,000 people gathered in Pakistan to cross the international border yesterday, raising anti-India slogans and threatened to cross the border into India. A number of Pakistanis managed to cross the border in R.S. Pura sector in Jammu region and set fire to crops. Security forces had to open fire to control the situation.

The Pakistani high commissioner, Mr Bashir Khan Babar, was summoned to the Foreign Office last night and the circumstances in which Indian security forces were compelled to fire were explained to him. He was also told that the incident was a result of the actions and statements made by Pakistani leaders in recent weeks inciting people to cross the border. The high commissioner was also told that on more than one occasion India had drawn the attention of the Pakistani authorities to the serious consequences that might follow such action. It was conveyed to the high commissioner that this type of affair has been compounded by the one-day national strike in Pakistan yesterday celebrating the last week as national solidarity week with Jammu and Kashmir and the proposed special session of the Pakistani National Assembly to discuss the situation in Kashmir.

An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said that India had also specifically brought to the notice of the Pakistani foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, when he was in New Delhi recently, indicating the possibility of such border crossing. [sentence as heard] India also urged then that his government should take all possible action to stop anti-India campaign. The Pakistani high commissioner was also told that India remains committed to the Simla Agreement and would respond in more than equal measure to the steps that Pakistani Government might take to reduce tensions and build relationships in the spirit of the agreement based on friendship and cooperation.

Pakistan's 'Queer Reaction' Noted

BK0602034590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Excerpts] India has conveyed to Pakistan its grave concern at yesterday's unprovoked incident by Pakistani nationals to cross the international border near Jammu. As reported, about 4,000 people gathered in Pakistan to cross the international border yesterday raising anti-India slogans and threatened to cross the border into India. A number of Pakistanis managed to cross the border in R.S. Pura sector in Jammu region and set fire to crops. Security forces had to open fire to control the situation.

The Pakistani high commissioner, Mr Bashir Khan Babar, was summoned to the Foreign Office last night and the circumstances in which the Indian security forces were compelled to fire explained to him. [passage omitted]

In a queer reaction to the incident, the Pakistani Foreign Office summoned the Indian high commissioner in Islamabad, Mr. J.N. Dixit, and asked him to convey a message of protest to the Indian Government immediately.

Meanwhile, the Indian High Commission has described as speculative and inaccurate reports in some Pakistani newspapers that India had enhanced its military presence in Jammu and Kashmir. A high commission press release says no additional deployment of Indian troops have taken place in the state. Such incorrect reports can only create misunderstanding and heighten tension, which the Indian Government and its people want to avoid.

More details of yesterday's intrusion by Pakistanis into Indian territory in the R.S. Pura area of Jammu have come to light. AIR [All India Radio] Jammu correspondent Ajit Singh reports after visiting the area that groups of Pakistanis had started assembling right from morning at four places opposite the Indian border posts of Uttaroi, (Uptulian), Nawan Pind, and Badhwar. They came in trucks and trolleys and raised anti-India slogans on loudspeakers. While the moves were not allowed by the Pakistani rangers at three points on Pakistani side, they crossed the international border at Pakistani post of (Pilla). They also attacked BSF [Border Security Force] jawans [soldiers], who tried to prevent them physically from planting the Pakistani flag deep inside the Indian territory. The BSF first fired in the air to scare away the mob, which fled the Indian territory.

Demonstrators Condemn Incident

BK0602092590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, spontaneous protest demonstrations were held today in Jammu city and several villages and towns in the entire border belt of Jammu and Kathua districts condemning the blatant intrusion by Pakistani citizens into the Indian territory in violation of the international border. In Jammu, students boycotted their classes and held a massive demonstration in bazaars of the city demanding vacation of the illegal occupation of Pakistan over some parts of the state.

The Jammu Maha Sabha organized another procession condemning Pakistan's efforts of whipping up public frenzy leading to yesterday's violation of international borders. The procession included the representatives of the Jammu Muslim Federation and those from Sikh and Christian organizations. Later, a deputation of the Maha Sabha presented a memorandum to the UN representative in Jammu urging it to impress upon Pakistan to desist from interference in Jammu and Kashmir by training and arming the subversives.

Demonstration at Pakistani Embassy

BK0602064990 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] A huge demonstration was staged before the Pakistani Embassy in New Delhi today in protest against Pakistan's deliberate interference in the internal affairs of India, resulting in disturbances in Jammu and Kashmir. Several former union ministers and members of Parliament were amongst the sea of people who assembled before the embassy.

The organizers—the Delhi Pradesh [state] Congress Committee-I and the Free Citizens of Democratic India—submitted a memorandum to the embassy. It categorically stated that whatever disturbances are occurring in Kashmir Valley and Punjab are the surreptitious doings of the Pakistani Government. The memorandum charged the Pakistani Government with creating hatred between different communities in India. It reminded Pakistan not to forget that Kashmir is an integral part of the Indian union, which was founded on the principles of secularism and democracy. The rally warned Pakistan to desist from interfering in the internal affairs of India and give up its warlike postures in the interests of peaceful coexistence and development of the two countries.

In Jammu, over 10,000 college students took out a procession. According to UNI, the students raised anti-Pakistan slogans as they paraded through the main bazaars and also demanded the liberation of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Singh: Country 'Prepared To Meet Any Threat'

BK0502162790 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] The prime minister has declared that India is prepared to meet any threat to the integrity and the security of the country, and the whole nation is solidly behind the Armed Forces. Addressing the consultative committee of Parliament in the Defense Ministry in New Delhi today, Mr V.P. Singh said there is evidence of Pakistan's support and assistance to militants and terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab. Islamabad's actions are inconsistent with the Simla agreement.

Mr V.P. Singh declared that no force can undo the accession of Kashmir to the Indian union. India will pay any price to secure the territorial integrity of the nation. He said no one should have any illusions about the determination of the government and the people of India to protect the unity and integrity of the country. The prime minister reiterated that it was India's endeavor to pursue the path of peace. We seek to solve all bilateral issues through mutual consultations and negotiations. New Delhi hopes that Pakistan will realize this and respond positively to the hand of friendship extended by India.

The consultative committee of members of Parliament unanimously adopted a resolution declaring that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India and interference in India's internal affairs will not be tolerated from any quarter whatsoever.

During the discussion, the members wanted the government to tell Pakistan firmly and in clear terms that no misadventure will be tolerated. Some members said we should take into consideration Pakistan's nuclear intentions and respond suitably. Referring to the diplomatic initiatives to counter Pakistan's efforts to internationalize the Kashmir issue, Mr V.P. Singh said we have had good response from the Soviet Union. The United States has also urged Pakistan to act within the framework of the Simla agreement in resolving bilateral matters. Other countries have also shown understanding.

On a suggestion by a member, the prime minister said it has been decided to introduce identity cards in all border states to check infiltration.

He also shared the concern of the members that the recent cut in defense expenditure is not a correct step at a time when a significant buildup is taking place in Pakistan.

Describing the current crisis in Kashmir as the outcome of a fairly long period of drift, Mr. V.P. Singh said it had been exploited by Pakistan for infiltration, training of subversive elements, and incitement.

The prime minister complimented the Armed Forces for their commendable performance in Sri Lanka. He said while the deinduction of the Peacekeeping Force will be completed by the end of March, the Sri Lankan Government should ensure the security of the Tamils.

Gujral Views Pakistani Role in Punjab, Kashmir

BK0602044190 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1600 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] The external affairs minister, Mr I.K. Gujral, today said that India is not heading for a war with Pakistan on the Kashmir issue, but we are capable of defending the country if a war is imposed on us. Addressing a press conference in Jullundur, he regretted that the ruling elite in Pakistan is hesitant about seeing major changes in the world and in India's foreign policy. He also appealed to the people, particularly intellectuals and opinion makers in Pakistan, to appreciate India's candid gesture of good-neighborly relations and to restrain those who are trying to practice brinkmanship.

Referring to terrorism in Punjab, he emphasized that the central and state governments are fully determined to root it out. He said some major irritants have been removed to solve the Punjab problem amicably.

Answering a question on Kashmir, Mr Gujral reaffirmed that it is an integral part of India and a partner of our secular and democratic setup.

Later, speaking to Doordarshan correspondent Usha Pawar, the external affairs minister made some categorical observations about Pakistan's role in fomenting troubles in Punjab and in Jammu and Kashmir.

[Begin recording] [Gujral] I think that Pakistan's interference is very manifest. There is no doubt about that—both in Punjab and Kashmir. And even when the foreign minister came to meet me in Delhi, I put it to him, and I think there was no credible denial on their part. That problem continues, and we have to meet it effectively.

[Pawar] What would you do to stop this Pakistani abetment to terrorism?

[Gujral] Well, I think more vigilance, more effective law and order machinery, and also more effective managing of the borders. [end recording]

Envoy Asks UN To Urge Pakistani 'Restraint'

BK0302103890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] India has asked the United Nations to advise Pakistan not to back subversive elements in Kashmir but to try to resolve its differences through dialogue and in a spirit of cooperation.

The Indian ambassador at the United Nations, Mr Chinmaya Gharekhan, who called on the UN secretary general, Mr Perez de Cuellar, last night, requested him to ask Pakistan to exercise restraint and not to do anything in violation of the Simla agreement. He pointed out that India desires to settle all disputes in the spirit of the Simla agreement but added that it is equally important that Pakistan should also respond to similar terms. He said that the only real issue in relation to Kashmir which is to be resolved is vacation by Pakistan of the area of the state it is unlawfully occupying. He said Kashmir is India's internal problem and it will not tolerate any interference in this regard. During the 50-minute meeting with the UN chief, he reiterated that India is keen to have friendly relations with all its neighbors, including Pakistan, but asserted that it should be reciprocal in all respects.

Mr Gharekhan's meeting with Mr Perez de Cuellar was a part of the current efforts by the government to explain to world leaders India's position on Kashmir.

UN Envoy Condemns 'Fallacious' Pakistani Account

BK0402084490 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] India has strongly condemned Pakistan's efforts to raise the Kashmir issue at the Human Rights Commission currently meeting in Geneva. Speaking at the session, India's permanent representative at the United Nations' Geneva office, Mr Kamlesh Sharma, said that Islamabad's narration of the recent events in Kashmir is not only distorted but also deliberately fallacious. He said such efforts cannot promote amicable relations.

Replying to the Pakistani representative's speech at the session on Thursday [1 February], Mr Sharma asserted that Kashmir is an integral part of India.

Meanwhile, in New York, India's UN representative, Mr C. R. Gharekhan, met the UN secretary general, Mr Javier Perez de Cuellar, and reiterated India's categorical stand that Kashmir is an internal affair and India will not brook any interference in its internal matters.

Official Briefs Kuwaiti Minister on Kashmir

BK0602041290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Kuwait, the chairman of the 45-member Islamic Conference Organization [ICO], says that it does not support any action by anyone which amounts to interference in India's internal affairs. The Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Shaykh al-Sabah, told the visiting Indian secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, Mr Muchkund Dubey, that Kuwait does not support religion-based separatist movements. The shaykh said that India and Pakistan should settle the Kashmir issue peacefully through a dialogue in accordance with the Simla Agreement.

Referring to the recent statement by the ICO, the Kuwaiti side explained that it was issued by the secretariat of the organization on its own, and not at the behest of its chairman, Kuwait.

Briefing on his hour-long discussion with Shaykh al-Sabah, Mr. Dubey told our Gulf correspondent, Jagmohan Mathur, that it was explained that the Kashmir situation has arisen out of Pakistan's encouragement to subversive elements.

Kashmir Bans Listening to Muzaffarabad Radio

BK0302023090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] The governor of the Indian occupied territory [of Kashmir], Mr Jag Mohan, as one of the latest measures has imposed a ban on listening to Radio Muzaffarabad [capital of Pakistani-held Kashmir]. Indian forces have arrested a large number of people for listening to Radio Muzaffarabad's broadcasts in Srinagar, Anantnag, Bandipura, Sopor, Baramula, and outskirts of Jammu. The Indian forces also took away nearly all radio sets from homes, shops, and restaurants for listening to Radio Muzaffarabad's broadcasts.

Meanwhile, army patrolling continues in nearly all major towns in the occupied territory, with forces equipped with machineguns patrolling deserted areas where no shops opened.

Sikh Group Plans 'Parallel Administration'

BK0302085890 Hong Kong AFP in English 0840 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] Amritsar, India, Feb 3 (AFP)—Sikh militants battling for a homeland in Punjab have announced that they plan to set up a parallel administration in the rural areas of the northern Indian state. The announcement was made by the All India Sikh Students Federation (AISSF) at the Golden Temple complex here Friday [2 February] at a massive gathering called to mourn the slaying of AISSF General Secretary Harminder Singh Sandhu.

AISSF President Manjit Singh said his group would organise "Khalsa Panchayats", or village councils of five, in Punjab's 12,348 villages to settle local disputes and carry out development work.

"Such Panchayats will fulfill the aspirations of the Sikhs waging armed struggle" for an independent homeland called Khalistan, or land of the pure, he said.

There was no immediate reaction from the Punjab government.

"Panchayats" are government-approved, elected councils of five villagers which are responsible for settling local disputes and carrying out development work with funds sanctioned by the administration.

But Mr. Manjit Singh told the Golden Temple gathering that the "Khalsa Panchayats" would raise funds locally, look after families of Sikhs waging the separatist campaign and issue a code of conduct for Sikhs. These "Panchayats" would be elected every April, coinciding with the Sikh new year, he said.

Mr. Manjit Singh said the idea of creating a parallel administration in Punjab's villages was the "brain child" of Mr. Sandhu, who was shot dead at his home here January 24 by two men believed to belong to a rival rebel group.

Mr. Manjit Singh described as "heinous" the killing of Mr. Sandhu and appealed to Sikh separatist groups to end their fratricidal wars that have left hundreds dead. The Khalistan campaign has claimed thousands of lives since mid-1983.

Iran

Tehran Radio Commentary on Bus Attack in Egypt

LD0502141590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1100 GMT 5 Dec 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] Yesterday a bus carrying a group of Zionists in Egypt came under an armed attack. At least 9 passengers were killed. However, some have put the number as high as 15.

That incident has had no precedent since the Camp David accords were signed in 1975 and the arrival of Zionists in Egypt as tourists. Since then a number of those connected to the Israel Embassy in Cairo have been executed by the revolutionary forces. However, this attack and killings on a bus carrying Zionist passengers was the first of its kind.

There are two aspects to the Ismailia bus incident which are worth reviewing. First the Muslim Palestinians' uprising, which is in its second year [as heard], has had wide repercussions among the people of that region, specifically in Egypt and Jordan. Because of their common border with occupied Palestine and the existence of common cultural and political interests with its original residents, they have been more affected than others.

Both the Amman and Cairo governments have been conducting overt and covert relations with the Zionist regime for a long time, trying to limit any discussions on the Palestinian crisis at the government level, while fearing its spread among the people. Consequently, any demonstrations in Egypt in support of the Muslim Palestinian uprising are immediately crushed by the government under the pretext of their threat to national security. However, such (?measures) have failed to prevent the Muslims of Jordan and Egypt from displaying active support for the Muslim people of Palestine.

Since Sulayman Qatar killed 7 Zionists along the border between occupied Palestine and Egypt, there have been continuous and sporadic attacks waged by the Jordanian Muslim soldiers against the occupying forces in occupied Palestine and constant manifestations of opposition to the policies of Jordan and Egypt.

However the Muslim people of Egypt, or in other words, those in the heart of the Arab world, have constantly been the frontline victims of confrontations with the Zionist regime, whether during war or peace time. notwithstanding the dictatorial rules of the (?accursed) Sadat and Husni Mubarak, however, they have displayed their rage against the conciliatory policies of the government, directing attacks against the occupiers' official organizations in the heart of Egypt.

The other political aspect to yesterday's attack by the Egyptian Muslim revolutionaries against the Zionists, in the town of Ismailia, is that it occured at a time when the possibility of tripartite talks in Washington between the foreign ministers of Egypt, Israel, and the United States has been strengthened. Those talks are to pave the way for direct talks between the Zionist and Palestinian delegations in Cairo. The talks have been delayed because Israeli has requested the participation of Palestinians who are not connected to the PLO. Furthermore, they want to limit the talks to discussions on ways of holding local elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

If these talks take place, it will be because 'Arafat and his faction in the PLO leadership will have retreated from the adopted stance. This has faced wide oppositions by the other Palestinian factions, specifically Islamic organizations in the occupied Palestine, such as the Islamic Jihad.

The heroic Egyptian attack on the Zionists in Ismailia, while capable of influencing the peace equations in the Middle East, could also be catalytic in strengthening the stance adopted by the Islamic Palestinian organizations which have been described as fundamentalist by the West.

Disruption of Peace Process

NC0502205990 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Political observer's commentary from "The Behind the News" program]

[Text] Whatever the identity of the perpetrators of the attack on the bus in Egypt, the killing of Zionists in Egypt is an expression of the general popular position, vis-a-vis the Zionists and official Arab attempts to normalize ties with them and accept their entity and existence, to peddle a settlement. The operation in itself represents a response to the current efforts to convene a tripartite meeting among the foreign ministers of the Egyptian regime, the Zionist entity, and America to pave the way for an official Zionist-Palestinian dialogue. This has been rejected.

The official Arab position, which is confined to observing and keeping silent about the daily killing, detention, and torture of the sons of the intifadah in occupied Palestine, inevitably results in such operations as the only means of responding to the Arab and Zionist positions. Instead of intensifying efforts to safeguard the intifadah and preventing the Zionist authorities from continuing their bestial actions, the Egyptian regime quells popular demonstrations in support of the intifadah and allows Jews to move about in Egypt, while the children of Palestine are killed every day.

This operation is not the first of its kind. It was preceded by similar operations, such as when soldier Sulayman Khatir fired at Zionists in Ra's al-Uqa' and when Zionist diplomats were assassinated. Nor will this operation be the last, because the principle of jihad to which Muslims adhere is constantly consolidated in the people's mind as the only practical way to confront Zionist terrorism and expansion and to make the military and political establishment in the Jewish entity understand that bringing in and assimilating immigrants will not consolidate this entity's existence, but will only motivate the Palestinians to raise the confrontation to new levels, particularly since the region is seething as a result of the worn-out official position on the Zionist entity. The masses feel that this challenge can no longer be tolerated and that it is imperative to rise morally and psychologically to the level of this challenge to support and protect the intifadah and make the Zionists understand that the Arab and Muslim region rejects the Zionist existence.

Statements by senior Zionist officials have emphasized this. Prime Minister Shamir and Defense Minister Rabin admitted that hatred of Jews still exists and is capable of causing what they called massacres in the Middle East. Zionist officials, however, forget their daily carnage against Muslims in occupied Palestine and Lebanon.

President's Message Read to Islamic Congress

LD0602113190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] The first big congress of institutes of the Islamic revolution began its work this morning at the amphitheater of Tehran University's engineering faculty, with a message from President Hashemi-Rafsanjani. The president's message, read out by Mr Masih Mohajeri, the president's social affairs advisor, has expressed the hope that the children of the revolution in the institutes would remain the vanguards during the period of growth and construction. The president's message adds: I, on the basis of instructions of the Vali-e amr [guardian of the cause] of the Muslims, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, assure you that the nation of Iran will continue moving forward along the path of establishing God's rule in this country; and will not submit to any bullying and confrontation of the enemies of Islam and the enemies of this realm; and until reaching the objective the nation considers every part of this Islamic homeland as a trench of struggle and the front of the war of justice against injustice. Each victory by us is the prelude to another victory, and this course will continue until total severance of global arrogance's sedition.

The message also stressed: all the authorities and officials of the institutes are obliged and dutybound to prepare, more than ever before, the grounds for the growth of revolutionary institutes and continuation of the morale of devotion and endeavor—by paying great attention to the issue of education and manpower training and through extensive and comprehensive planning, particularly by paying attention to spirituality and religio-political studies.

Khamene'i Addresses 'Eminent Muslim' Guests 1 Feb

LD0202163890 Tehran IRNA in English 1538 GMT 2 Feb 90

[Text] Tehran, Feb. 2, IRNA—The leader of the Islamic Republic, Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, said to a group of eminent Muslim guests from abroad on the occasion of the 11th anniversary of the triumph of the Islamic revolution in Iran Thursday [1 February] that the universal system of "domination of the mighty over the less mighty" will shortly succumb to Islam.

He said despite the continuous schemes of the global arrogance for pushing morality and religion and specifically Islam as a value system from the daily life of the world peoples, Islam is in and is already pushing its enemies out of the scene.

The leader said: "The idea behind the struggle of Iran's Muslim people led by our dignified and enterprising Imam (Khomeyni), that eminent personality, was to institute a purely Islamic life-style ensuring the prosperity and perfection of mankind. The enemies of mankind and the earthly-archdemons, too, have always done their best to estrange mankind from that pure life-style.

He said that since the triumph of the Islamic revolution in Iran the call of Islam is heard as the "loudest and firmest of all outcries against the oppressive universal system of the domination of the arrogant power blocks."

The challenge to Islam and to the Islamic Republic by the ruling world powers and on top of them the United States, said the ayatollah "is because of the resurgence of a pure and unadulterated Islam free from all admixtures by the agents of world arrogance."

He said: "The spectrum of the influence of Islam will continue to broaden to new frontiers, and it will gain a swaying power in the mind of man and in his daily life. Not too far away in time will mankind witness the collapse of Western domination and the rule of anti-human criteria. In the near future the ruling system in the Western bloc will disintegrate, thanks to the blessings of Islam..."

In his address to the visiting guests the leader of the Islamic revolution also reminded the need to hold out in the struggle against all "domineering and Satanic powers" as well as the Zionist regime and streesed that the illicit entity should forego its usurpation of Muslim land, and that the denied rights of Palestinians should be recognized and justice dealt out to them.

Among the visitors were leaders of Friday prayers in Iran, ulema, Majlis deputies, relatives of martyrs, of prisoners of war, of wounded servicemen, and of those missing-in-action, a group of the personnel of the Martyrs Foundation, and others.

Stresses Struggle for 'Pure Islam'

LD0102223390 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1640 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Speech by Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i on 1 February on the anniversary of Ayatollah Khomeyni's return from exile in 1979; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] In today's world, all efforts of the global arrogance are concentrated on silencing and stifling any voice raised against the present ruling system in the world. Since the victory of the Islamic revolution, the voice of Islam has been the strongest, most definite cry raised against the oppressive ruling of the global arrogance. Therefore, today most of the Taghut [pre-Islamic idol] and enemies' efforts are made to silence the voice of Islam. During those 10, 11 years which have passed from the victory of the revolution, the organizations affiliated with the world arrogance—from propaganda and cultural organizations to political, military, and economic ones—have made so many efforts and activities against the invitation to Islam and, in particular, the center of the revolutionary invitation to Islam, Islamic Iran. Never before have such efforts been made against any other incident or event by the global arrogance and those protecting the global ruling system.

Today, on the anniversary of the victory of the revolution and the arrival of the imam, it is appropriate for us to make clear, in a short sentence, what our aim is and on what issue the enemy is confronting us; also to make clear how far this arena of campaign and struggle will continue and where it will reach. I say in the confrontation of the world dominating powers with the revolution and the system of the Islamic revolution, the issue is Islam. The issue is pure Islam—the kind of Islam clear of the distortions made by agents of the global arrogance. For us too, the issue is Islam, for our enemy the issue also is Islam. We are confronting the arrogance because of Islam. The aim of the world arrogance, spearheaded by America and followed by all satanic world-dominating organizations—or even those organizations which are not dominant, but work for the interests of the arrogance—their aim also, in confrontation with the Islamic Iran, is only Islam and nothing else. No other issue is there.

For the sake of the immaculate life of Islam, not only do we fight for ourselves, but also for humanity. That does not mean we wish to mobilize our forces in search of places where the allies of the arrogance have violated the immaculate life of humanity, and then wage wars against them. This is not what that war is about. In the base of Islam, our efforts are aimed at proving humanity is suffering; it is getting closer to misfortune, under the heavy, evil, shadow of the present rule of arrogance over the world. Islam is the savior of humanity. [passage omitted]

The arrogance can respond favorably to any nation, any invitation, any system which accepts the culture of the global hegemony. It has no quarrels with them. Any culture, nation, and system which rejects the culture of the hegemony, in other words, the rule of the gods of tyranny and the emperors of global power, becomes the object of their hatred. Today, it is Islam, it is us, who reject that system of global hegemony. We condemn it. We hold it responsible for the oppression and misery of human beings throughout the world. [crowd chants "God is great," "Khomeyni is the leader," "Death to America," "Death to Israel"]

We have not panicked, nor are we panicking now, over the accusations leveled at our revolution, our country, and our nation. From the onset of the revolution, the most reactionary of the world's reactionaries accused our nation and our revolution, which had carried out a pioneering and the most progressive movement of its time, of reactionaryism. That does not cause us to panic. Let them say that.

In the political field, they have leveled all sorts of accusations at our revolution, our nation, our government, and our country, knowing that such accusations are considered ugly and undesirable by our nation and the Islamic system in Iran. They themselves are aware of the mendacious nature of such accusations. [passage omitted]

Not only did they fail to defeat the Islamic Republic and the Islamic revolution in Iran by waging their imposed war, and not only did they fail to deliver a blow to that revolution and that system by their propaganda and cultural blockade, they even failed to block the light of truth of that revolution from radiating. [passage omitted]

Today, from the two political and economic poles of the world—the Eastern pole and the Western pole—the Eastern pole has more or less disintegrated.

The Eastern pole has almost disintegrated; in the world today what is called the Eastern pole no longer exists. Nobody could believe this would happen. I maintain that the domain of Islam's expansion and influence will go farther than that, much farther. And, in a not too distant future, humanity will bear witness to the fact that the sovereignty of the West, the sovereignty of the culture of dominance, and the sovereignty of the value of anti- values which now holds sway over humanity, will fall apart. And, that thing which today is tyrannizing the world in the name of the Western bloc will also fall apart and disappear. [chanting of approval by the crowd] All this stems from the blessings of Islam. In a not too distant future, humanity will bear witness to the fact that the usurper rule of the Zionists is forced to retreat. The victimized nation of Palestine will attain its rights. That is the nature of time; it is in line with the present trend of the facts of the universe. Muslims should prepare themselves. Faithful and believing Muslims must know that today is the day of Islam, the day in which the principal role and the principal period of Islam shall dawn. They should know that Islam will achieve progress, that Islam will be sovereign in the arena of the mind of humanity and, God willing in the arena of the realities of life.

Toeing the line set by our late gracious imam—that model personality of the universe today, the personality who resembles the kind of the God's chosen and who belongs to the dynasty of those chosen by God—we, in the Islamic Republic regime, follow decisively and strongly the path of insisting on Islam and confronting the Tavaghit [plural of Taghut]. We believe that the future belongs to Islam and is at the disposal of Islam. [passage omitted]

Ahmad Khomeyni's Speech on '10 Days of Dawn'

NC0102152290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0640 GMT 1 Feb 90

[Speech by Ahmad Khomeyni on the "10 Days of Dawn" anniversary to a gathering at Imam Khomeyni's tomb at Behesth-e Zahra cemetery—live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. Today is the commencement of the 11th anniversary of the spectacular victory of the Islamic revolution and the anniversary of the historic arrival of the imam of the ummah to the Islamic homeland.

Our dear and great imam came to Iran 11 years ago at a time when a sacred (?struggle had started), contrary to the will and determination of all the world devourers, especially America and its servants. The imam's return to Iran was not the return of a mere man or of a mere source of emulation or of a mere religious, political, and revolutionary figure. It was the return and the emergence in society of the lofty values of Islam which the oppressive Pahlavi regime, backed by the policies of world arrogance, especially America, had been bent on destroying through every possible means for more than half a century.

The 12th of Bahman [1 February 1979] was the day on which a strength was shown which had been impossible to believe up until then, even among the friends of the imam. And one can justly say that the only phenomenon which upset all the powerful, the wealthy, and the hirelings and caused them to lose their sleep was the Islamic revolution and its culmination—the return of the great leader of resistance to our Islamic homeland, which no plan or policy was able to impede.

The imam had a firm belief in the eternal strength of God, and this belief suffused his entire being. The imam had truly realized that there is no strength more powerful than the strength of God and that anyone who relies on this strength can certainly overcome all the money and strength of the powerful and the wealthy. It was this in the opinion of the imam that formed the most basic pillar of the movement, approach, and energy of a revolutionary element. The imam believed that such an element would weigh and understand his strength and power and realize the impotence of the enemy.

The imam went through hell and high water to defend Islam and your rights and was able to emerge a victor from all these.

The imam did not fear anything, because of his reliance in the strength of God. And the day that he started the struggle against your enemies—your domestic and foreign enemies—he was able to resist, with a calm heart and a determined soul, the strongest power of the world—America—and its puppet—the shah.

From the day that he rose to struggle all alone, until the day he reached the peak of victory, the imam did not doubt his capability for one moment. He always spoke about Islamic and divine strength. When he referred to the departure of the shah and the ousting of America in his statements, speeches, and messages—especially during his exile—everyone, even his friends, smiled because they said: Can one run on the point of a spear? You are all alone. The shah has all his domestic and foreign minions and is backed by America and other countries. How can you carry out this struggle and achieve such a great thing?

But the imam repeatedly said: We are all as nothing in front of God's strength, and there is no strength like God's strength. Those who doubt their strength are those who do not believe in God Almighty. [passage omitted]

In his message to the pilgrims to the House of God he said: O Muslims of all the countries of the world. Since you are facing gradual death under foreign domination, you should overcome your fear of death. You should use the zealous and brave youths who are willing to break the fronts of blasphemy. Do not think of maintaining the present situation. Think of fleeing from bondage and attaining salvation from slavery and the attack by the enemies of Islam. Grandeur and life can be achieved through struggle. The first step in a struggle is determination, followed by your decision to break the domination of world blasphemy and especially of America.

It was exactly with this in mind that the imam thought of the domination of the power of Islam. It was with this view that the imam wanted to create a world Islamic society and to stand up against all the powers of blasphemy. And thank God, he emerged victorious in many of the fronts. We should continue the path of that great man and bring victory for our great nation. [passage omitted]

In one of his statements the imam said: By declaring the disavowal of the atheists, we intended and intend to release the condensed energy in the world of Islam. This will happen one day with the help of God Almighty and with the hands of the [word indistinct] children. [passage omitted]

If we want to stand in front of America, do we have any other alternative but to release the condensed energy of the combatants of Islam throughout the world? Those who pay lipservice to compromise with America and the West should know that they are not following the line of the imam. We will be following the imam's line when we stand within the framework of the imam's thought and in front of America and the West, and the Soviet Union and the East. [cheers]

The imam stated: I say with confidence that Islam will disgrace the superpowers. Islam will remove the big obstacles inside and outside its limits, one after the other, and will take over the key positions in the world. Has this not happened? Did the Soviet Muslims not show that the eastern superpower is disgraced? Was America not disgraced in Panama? Was America not disgraced in Grenada? [cheers] It seems as though the microphones are on the side of America and the Soviet Union. [apparent reference to a technical difficulty which was not heard]

In one of his messages the imam said: We should prepare ourselves to form a strong Islamic and humanitarian front bearing the emblem and name of our Islam and of our revoluton before the united front of East and West, so that the grandeur of the deprived and the barefooted of the world will be celebrated.

How is a united Islamic front formed? Can we form a united Islamic front with Saddam, Husni Mubarak, Fahd, and the heads of other countries or with the reactionaries of the Gulf? If today we do not stand up before the eastern and western powers and defend the noble human beings who are being kept in the prisons of Arab reactionaries and in the big prisons of the various parts of the world, if we do not support them and strive for their freedom and if we do not form a united front with the Koran in one hand and a weapon in the other, we will never be able to celebrate the victory of the deprived. If we do not do this, then we will not be following the line of the imam.

Today I am reading the words of the imam as the words of truth and justice so that your minds will be replenished with what the imam once said and so that you will be able to stand firm before the East and the West.

At a time when all policymakers were trying to see how they could jump on the bandwagon of the capitalists and of the big powers so that they could achieve something, the imam said that if we rely on the barefoot of the world, then be sure that we will be victorious. But know that the day when we distance ourselves from the people we will be defeated.

From the imam's view, deprived people are not tools, but the manifestation of the true power of a revolutionary society without whom no one can achieve anything. [passage omitted]

You the people were the supporters of the front. You the people supported and support your Islamic system. This system is still powerful in the international arenas after 10 years and is defending your Islam. Is this not a blessing?

Meanwhile, you the people are the flames of revolutionary rage. Have you not dried up the roots of the corruption of America, the West, and the superpowers? Did you not confront the East and the West? Did you not resist all plots and ploys? Did you not annihilate all the mischiefs of domestic counterrevolution? Why? Because your revolutionary rage is sacred, as it should be.

The imam accepted only those political and economic movements which (?start) and end with the people. The imam did not accept, in any way, a political movement which distances itself from the people and an economic movement which is not aimed at the deprived. The line of the imam means the line of the deprived and the oppressed. [passage omitted]

Thank God, today we have a leader who is moving in the path and the line of the imam. Today our leader, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i [chants] is treading exactly on the path of the imam. His strong and decisive stands vis-a-vis America and world arrogance are laudable. And as the child of the imam, I thank him for these stands.

If you the people are not on the scene, if you—the men and women forming the immense army which is devoted to the imam—are not on the scene, how can your dear leader crush the mouth of America? Your being on the scene has led our dear leader, the apple of our eye and the apple of the imam's eye, to stand strongly and decisively in front of America and arrogance, thank God.

When the imam spoke about the deprived and the barefoot, some godless people accused them of being Marxists, [word indistinct], or something else. [sentence as heard] Does support for the barefoot mean that one does not believe in God? The imam said, and I will read it out for you: The officials of the system of revolutionary Iran should know that some godless people, in a bid to destroy the revolution, describe anyone who wants to work for the poor and to tread the path of Islam and of the revolution immediately as a communist or (?dependent). Do not fear accusations. You should bear God in mind and do your best to please God and to help the poor. Do not fear any accusations.

Accusing the imam and the pro-imam revolutionaries of being leftist was nothing new. In his youth, and when he was in the Feyziyeh School, the imam was accused of being an infidel. Was the Prophet too not accused of the same things? Was he not said to have been insane? Your imam too was said to be insane. [passage omitted]

Another point that you should take into consideration and attach great importance to is: What was the imam like in his fight against arrogance?

There are two kinds of ideas in the fight against arrogance. Some say that if a certain party—say America—has nothing to do with Iran and does not do things which threaten our interests and those of our country, we too will have nothing to do with him. The imam never thought like this in the war against arrogance. The imam said: We will continue our struggle as long as there is even one oppressed human being anywhere in the world. The imam said: We say that there will be a struggle as long as there is blasphemy and that we too will be there as long as there is a struggle. We do not have a fight with anyone over a city or a country. We intend to hoist the banner of "God is Great and there is only one God" on the bastions of grandeur. I explicitly announce that the Islamic Republic of Iran seeks, with all its might, to revive the Islamic identity of the Muslims throughout the world. There is no reason why the Muslims of the world should not be called to pursue the principles of gaining power in the world and of not being fooled or misled by the opportunism and ambition of the hegemonists.

What does this mean? How can Islamic identity be revived? Can we revive Islamic identity with the present rulers of the Islamic countries? Can Islam be revived with Saddam, Husni Mubarak, Morocco's Shah Hasan, and Jordan's Shah Husayn? Does Islam want such people to be in power?

Islam wants people like you. The imam needs people like you for the revival of Islamic identity in the world and in the Islamic countries. If you play a major role in the revival of Iran's Islamic identity, the barefoot people in Islamic countries too play a major role in the revival of Islamic identity. If we are unable to nurture the people in Islamic countries, if we are unable to transfer our struggles to these countries, and if we refrain from exporting our revolution to Islamic countries, we will not be following the imam's line. The imam himself said that there is no reason why we should not call on the Muslims of the world to follow the principles leading to the gaining of power in the world and to refrain from being misled by the opportunism and ambitions of the wealthy and the powerful.

The imam said 10 years ago that our duty is to resist the superpowers, and we have the power to resist too. This is what Islamic identity means. It means to stand up in front of America, to stand up in front of the East. This is the imam's line.

The imam did not consider the threat of communism to be less than the threat of America. The imam repeatedly said that communism is worse than America and America is worse than communism.

In one of his statements, the imam asserted: We are in a fight with international communism to the same extent that we are in a fight with the western world-devourers headed by America, and we strongly fight agaisnt Zionism and Israel.

In another of his statements, the imam said: My dear friends, know that the threat of communist powers is no less than the threat of America, and that the threat of America is so great that the least bit of neglect by us will mean our destruction. Both the superpowers are bent on destroying the oppressed nations. We should support the oppressed of the world. We should strive to export our revolution to the world and to set aside any thought that we will not be exporting our revolution.

How can we export our revolution to the world? I said that the only way is by relying on the people. The only way is by supporting the struggling people in Islamic countries, and by supporting the world combatants both in Islamic and non-Islamic countries. This is the only way in which we can export the revolution. This is what the imam's line means.

Did not the imam say that any procrastination will mean that America will strike its last blow at us? Does this not mean that you, the revolutionary men and women, should prepare yourselves for a strong fight against America? If you are careless, America will destroy you. America is prepared to invest whatever is necessary to destroy you and destroy your Islam. America opposes your Islamic-revolutionary identity. It is your Islamic-revolutionary identity that has harmed America in the world. You should bear this in mind. This is the imam's warning that the threat of international communism is not less than the threat of America and that if you neglect America even for a moment, you will suffer a heavy blow.

The imam issued a message to the ulema and to the intellectuals in his fight against blasphemy. In part of this message, it is said that the ulema and scholars throughout the world, especially the ulema and scholars of great Islam, should rise—with one heart and in one direction—to save mankind from the oppressive domination of this [word indistinct] and plotting minority which has established its oppressive hegemony in the world through its machinations and ploys.

In his remarks in Qom condemning capitulation, the imam shouted: O ulema of Islam, come to the help of Islam. O ulema of al-Najaf, come to the help of Islam. O ulema of Mashhad, Tehran, Shiraz, Qom, come to the help of Islam. Ten years ago, the same shout was heard more loudly that if you, the intellectuals, the ulema, and the clergymen, do not think of Islam then be sure that Islam will gradually lose its revolutionary face. You should disseminate Islamic ideology. You should say what approach Islam should take to domestic and foreign counterrevolution. You should say what Islam's approach is to the issues of ownership, land, and factories. You are the ones who should say what Islam's view is on legal matters and on banking. I have spoken about all these topics and I also intended to discuss these matters with you. But they are constantly telling us that it is enough. All right. I will end my remarks here.

I want to thank the organizers of the 10 Days of Dawn ceremonies and those who organized this ceremony on my behalf and on behalf of other brothers. I thank the families of the martyrs, of the disabled, of the prisoners of war, and of the missing in action. I kiss their hands. I thank you the people who did not leave the imam alone even for one moment. But who am I to thank you? God thanks all of you. The Prophet of God thanks all of you, because you did not let the friend of the Prophet, the imam, be alone. You justly came to know the imam well, and the imam came to know you well too. You stood next to the imam during his exile. You stood next to him when he started the struggle. And you were there when the imam came. You were next to the imam during the 10 years of struggle. Today too you are next to the path of the imam.

I thank my very dear and good brother, our great revolutionary, a person who suffered imprisonment, torture, and exile and who—throughout the 25 years of struggle—did not let the imam stand alone even for a moment, His Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam val Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the honorable president. I pray to God that he will be able to steer this ship to the shores of salvation.

I thank all the officials of the country and the foreign guests who have come here at the invitation of the Guidance Ministry. I thank the [words indistinct] of Mr Khatami who is taking great pains these days.

At this point, let us all raise our voice and pray: Dear God, grant a glorious life to our dear leader, the friend of the imam, the struggler in the [word indistinct] line, and a person who did not let the imam stand alone for a moment. Dear God, grant success to our leader so that he can, with his guidance, make us stand in front of the East and the West as the imam wanted. Dear God, help us to stand next to the Hezbollah people and next to our brothers and sisters. Dear God, you know that I consider myself to be the servant of these people. Dear God, you know that we cherish the very ground on which these people walk. Any official in the country who thinks otherwise is not following the line of the imam.

May God's blessings be upon you.

Khamene'i Awards Medals, Addresses Group

LD0402204490 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1600 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Excerpts] On the eve of the 12th [as heard] anniversary of the Iranian Islamic revolution victory and on the auspicious occasion of the "10 Days of Dawn," 210 commanders and outstanding and selfless combatants of the Army and the Guards Corps, who played an effective and crucial role in the two victorious operations of "Karbala'-5" and "Karbala'-7," were honored by receiving victory medals [neshan-e fath] from His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic revolution and commander in chief of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI]. [passage omitted]

In a speech afterwards, the leader of the Islamic revolution paid tribute to the warriors of Islam for their bravery and self-sacrifices during the 8 years of holy defense, and particularly honored the memory of the unknown combatants of the imposed war, and graciously said: These days, everywhere in our society and in the minds and hearts of our nation, the unforgettable memory of the Iranian nation's historic victory and the great dawn of Islam's history is alive and visible. [Video shows Khamene'i awarding the medals; in addition to the officers, there are dozens of martyrs' families and several clergymen] And today, in these ceremonies, the memory of the two great victories and two victorious jihads of "Karbala'-5" and "Karbala'-7" is revived in our nation's mind. A group of commanders and outstanding combatants of these two operations have been honored and have received victory medals, but no doubt there have been others also who have sacrificed their lives in these operations and have donated all their assets to the Islamic revolution and the Muslim nation of Iran. There were many basijis, guards, soldiers, jihad workers and other warriors, who strove selflessly during these two operations and other demanding and very proud operations of the imposed war. Some of these warriors gained the exalted status of martyrdom and many of them survived—whose names maybe we do not know—but their memory shall remain alive and eternal in history and in our nation's mind. Above all, their lofty status will be for ever be protected by Almighty God with the very holy saints and the angels.

Addressing the Armed Forces, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces graciously said: It is a great honor to be a member of the Armed Forces of a revolutionary and Muslim nation, and those who are in the Armed Forces' ranks should feel proud. They should be proud of selflessness for the nation's and country's aspirations and lofty objectives. The possibility of being selfless depends on morale and physical fitness, and the Armed Forces should always keep their mind and body fit and ready.

His eminence referred to the readiness and might of the Armed Forces and the nation for self-defense as factors which repel foreign threats and the aggressive desires of enemies and conspirators, and graciously added: Our nation is very strong and possesses undiminishing power to defend itself. The nation's power should, therefore, be manifested in our Armed Forces, and the organization, combat knowledge, equipment and everything which increases our defense capabilities should, therefore, attain the level that the nation deserves.

The commander in chief of the Armed Forces graciously said that the Armed Forces owe their strength, capability and morale to the undiminishing power of the great Muslim nation of Iran and added: The organization of the Armed Forces of the IRI should demonstrate the nation's might. Today our powerful Army and strong Guards Corps should make themselves stronger than ever before; and the country's opportunities also belong to them in the first place. The existence of these two combat organizations should therefore, within the limits set out for both of these organizations, cooperate fully with each other.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i referred to the Armed Forces as the people's trust in the hands of the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and while stressing the need to defend and safeguard this trust, graciously reminded the commanders of the army and the guards corps of the heavy burden of responsibility they shoulder in performing their tasks. While stressing the need to learn a lesson and make use of the highly significant combat experience gained during the 8 years of holy defense, addressing the audience, he graciously said: You have been through some days and nights which deprived your enemies of sleep all over the world because they were worried and frightened, and kept your friends awake because they were happy and excited.

The Islamic revolution leader graciously continued: As long as the enemy shows no sign of justice and no signs of remorse for the aggression, we must consider him an enemy and should beware of him.

The Islamic Revolution leader referred to the invasion of our border areas by the Saddam regime, which took place in the hardest circumstances in the life of the proud nation of Iran, as evidence of that regime's hostility to the IRI's nation and system, and opposition to regional peace and security. And concluding his speech, the Islamic Revolution leader, while stating that Saddam's aggression against Iran stemmed from his evil nature, wickedness, global arrogance's persuasion, and the crafty regional reactionaries who aroused his [Saddam's] ambitious feelings, graciously added: Our Armed Forces should demonstrate their alertness and vigilance in practice, and this is what the nation demands, and I, as the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, expect this from the fighting forces. All the Armed Forces' active elements must play their role in maintaining readiness and boosting the country's power and defense capability.

National Security Council Meets 3 Feb

NC0402070990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] The Supreme Council for National Security met yesterday afternoon under the chairmanship of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani and with the participation of the other members of the council.

The Central News Unit reports that during this meeting proposals by the economic and cultural committee of the Supreme Council for National Security were discussed and approved.

Gorbachev's Approach in Republics Contrasted

NC0302123890 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 24 Jan 90 p 2

[Hoseyn Shari'atmadari's commentary: "Two Equations and One Known Quantity"]

[Text] When European Lithuania announced its independence, Gorbachev went there and the Americans warned that the use of force to resolve the situation would harm Soviet-U.S. relations.

Of course, Mr Gorbachev is too intelligent to need such a warning. He took a cordial and friendly approach toward the Lithuanians and attempted to find a solution while taking care not to say anything that could do the least harm.

However, when the people of Soviet Azerbaijan raised their voices for Islam, the Americans were more shocked than the Soviets and quickly and unhesitatingly advocated that troops and force be used against the Azerbaijani Muslims. Mr Gorbachev acted in accordance with this American suggestion and things happened that should not have taken place.

Even though these two equations have a common denominator, the same "known quantity" which was added to both was not "correct." Mr Gorbachev adopted a prudent approach toward the Lithuanian people, but his approach toward the Muslim Azerbaijani people was most unwise and tantamount to twisting a lion's tail. In this way, the Soviet leaders have stepped into a seething maelstrom from which there is no way out.

May God grant a lofty status to our dear imam who has ascended to heaven and is among the angels and who so wisely stated: The United States has made a fool out of the Soviet Union.

*New Appointments to Various Positions Announced

90OI0146A London KEYHAN in Persian 18 Jan 90 p 3

[Text] Appointments in the Islamic Republic:

- Revolutionary Guard Mobilization Resistance Commander: 'Alireza Afshar.
- Mayor of Tehran: Gholamhoseyn Karbaschi. He was governor-general of Esfahan when selected for this position.
- Prosecutor of the Clerical Court: Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammadi Reyshahri. The duties of the prosecutor of the Clerical Court have been given as "dealing with any violations or misconduct that may arise from some so-called clerical elements."
- Acting director of the National Bank: Mehrdad Baqeri.
- Ambassador to Columbia: Abolqasem Delfi.
- Acting minister of commerce and deputy minister of commerce for executive affairs: Mohammad Sharif.
- Acting minister of heavy industries: Engineer Mohsen Safa'i Farhani.
- And chief of the Ideological and Political Office of the Central Air Force Hospital: Hojjat ol-Eslam Arbabi-Fard.

*More Appointments Listed

90OI0146B London KEYHAN in Persian 25 Jan 90 p 3

[Text] Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Support:

- Deputy minister for Majles affairs: Hoseyn Nejat.
- Chief of the Investigation Organization: Mohammad Reza Musavi-Hoseyni.
- Economic affairs consultant: Ezzatollah Qa'edi.
- Supervisor of the Defense Industries Organization's Education and Research Institute: Dr. Mehdi Bazargan.
- Minister's consultant: Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Rahimi.

Islamic Republic's ambassador to Japan: Hoseyn Kazempur-Ardebili, "former deputy foreign minister for international affairs."

Central Province governor: General Massih Mo'meni.

Esfahan Province governor: General Seyyed Mohammad Reza Vaqefi, "Majles deputy from Esfahan."

Acting director of the Iran National Industries Organization: Esma'il Habibzadeh.

Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance:

- Consultant to the minister: Engineer Behzad Nabavi, "former minister of heavy industries."
- Consultant to the minister and supervisor of the Cultural Affairs Center for Iranians Living Abroad: Mohammad Taha 'Abd- Khoda'i.
- Deputy minister for tourism and pilgrimage affairs: Morteza Hajji.

Deputy minister of mines and metals for administrative and financial affairs: Engineer Asghar Nehavandiyan.

Consultant to the minister of heavy industries: Seyyed 'Ali Mahmudi.

President of Esfahan Medical Sciences University: Dr Ebrahim Esfandiari.

Experts Chairman on Islamic Propagation Bureau

LD0402162990 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 4 Feb 90

[Text] During a meeting with foreign guests taking part in the Eighth Islamic Ideology Conference in Qom, Ayatollah Meshkini, chairman of the Assembly of Experts, described the setting up of the Bureau for the Propogation of Islamic Sects as an important step toward solving the problems facing Muslim nations. He added: To create a big Islamic center, with the participation of representatives of all Islamic sects is, at present, an irrefutable necessity. The proposal by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the great leader of the Islamic revolution, concerning this important issues is a sign of his correct and accurate assessment of the situation in the world of Islam.

He expressed the hope that, with the creation of that Islamic center, the problems and difficulties facing the Islamic world would be solved as soon as possible.

Referring to the political developments in the Eastern bloc, he said: The crumbling of the hollow foundations of communism and socialism has given Islamic theologians the best opportunity to clarify and explain the lofty concepts of Islam to those who thirst for justice and truth.

According to this report, the foreign guests taking part in the auspicious 10 Days of Dawn ceremonies visited the various parts of Qom Seminary.

29 Drug Smugglers Arrested in Kerman Province

LD0302190890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 3 Feb 90

[Text] During the past week the guards of the Islamic Revolution Committee in Bam and the 101 Imam Husayn Battalion of Abuzar base in Kerman have arrested five smugglers, together with 220 kg of opium and four vehicles in various districts of Bam. One of the armed insurgents in Kahnuj area, Ebrahim Khademi, known as Ebrahim Sheykh, who was hiding in Hormozgan province was arrested. So far, he has confessed to the transportation and distribution of more than 120 kg of narcotics and armed robbery on seven vehicles.

The commander of the Islamic Revolution Committee of Kerman province and Abuzar tactical base also announced that during the past week, in addition to arrest of one of the leaders of the insurgents and the armed caravans who had engaged in the transportation and distribution of tens of tonnes of narcotics, 29 more professional smugglers were arrested and 316 kg of narcotics, 8 weapons, and 10 vehicles and motorcycles were confiscated.

*Committee Formed To Protect Students in England

90OI0141A Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian 14 Jan 90 p 3

[Text] Political Bureau: Following the arrest and deportation of Moslem students in England and savage attacks by the Thatcher regime's fascist police on Iranian students and their families, a committee under the designation of "The committee to defend the rights of the students under the oppression of the British regime" was formed in Tehran.

According to our reporter, members of this committee consist of the wife of Mr Mehrdad Kowkabi, an arrested Iranian student, and a number of students who were deported from England.

It must be noted that Mehrdad Kowkabi was arrested, about one month ago, in the aftermath of a savage attack by the police on his house and is being held in Thatcher's jail. This is while no evidence against him has been presented and, by frequent requests from the rigged London court, the British police have prolonged his arrest under the guise of completing his file. With this excuse they are wasting time.

This committee will focus its activities on defending the rights of the Moslem students in England and eradicating the prevailing unsafe and oppressive atmosphere. Another focus of this committee will be to free Mehrdad Kowkabi from bondage.

In a meeting with the officials of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education, members of this committee requested an investigation of the present unsafe situation for Moslem students in England.

In this regard, the officials of the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education pointed out that notice has been given to the Swedish charge d'affaires that in the future no more students will be sent to England and, if such clashes continue, the possibility of recalling the students will be considered.

Also, members of this committee met with the chairman of the Majles' Foreign Affairs Committee. In this meeting, attended by Mr Mehrdad Kowkabi's wife, Dr Raja'i-Khorasani severely deplored the recent beastly moves by the British regime. He assured the committee that he will take the necessary measures in connection with the release of Mr Kowkabi.

In the meeting of the members of this committee with the members of the Majles' Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr Kowkabi's wife in a statement declared that "martyrdom and bondage are honors to us" and pointed out that the British regime, without any legitimate reason, has imprisoned her husband and wants to use him as a political lever. The respected deputies, members of the foreign affairs committee, then severely condemned the actions of the British government and requested wider efforts by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in this regard.

*Undeclared War Against Students

*90OI0141B Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
14 Jan 90 p 16*

[Text] KEYHAN-E HAVA'I News Service—In order to create fear and oppress the Iranian Moslem students, the British police (Scotland Yard), in continuation of its savage attacks on Iranian students, attempts new tricks.

According to reports, Scotland Yard has ordered its special forces (the CID [Criminal Investigation Department] branch), which are the undercover police of that country, to raid the homes of Moslem Iranian students. This is designed to create fear among them by assault and battery and warn them at gun point that if they do not leave the country on their own they will kill them. In this connection four blacks, who identified themselves as members of a racist group, raided the home of brother Javad Khadem-Musavi and after beating him warned him that he should leave Britain as soon as possible.

Temporary Release of the Iranian Student

KEYHAN-E HAVA'I News Service—After the initial request of the British police to be granted six weeks to complete the investigation of its trumped up charges against the arrested Iranian student in London, Mehrdad Kowkabi, another request for a further delay of eight weeks was filed.

According to reports, in continuation of the trial of Mehrdad Kowkabi, another court session was held last Thursday to investigate his case. In this court, the attorney for the Iranian student requested that a 50,000 pounds bail be set for the temporary release of Kowkabi until his final trial. This request was rejected by the court. Also, in this court the British police once more requested the postponement of the trial in order to gather evidence against the Iranian student. The request was to extend the six weeks delay by another eight weeks.

The British police have claimed, without presenting any evidence, that Mehrdad Kowkabi was involved in an arson attack on a book store last April. The police have made several attempts in court to kill time and request delays to gather evidence against the Iranian student.

It should be noted that Mehrdad Kowkabi has spent the past three weeks in jail. Last week he appeared in court for the fourth time. However, each time the police, due to a lack of evidence, have requested delays. As a result, the Iranian student has been kept in jail without any specific charges being brought against him. The last court denied his request to be freed on bail. According to political experts, the objective of the British government by prolonging this escapade is to take political advantage in its relation with Iran and find a suitable subject in order to find evidence against the Iranian student.

Pakistan

Indian Rangers Fire on Border Demonstrators

1 Killed, 12 Wounded

*BK0502161790 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1608 GMT 5 Feb 90*

[Text] About 30,000 people were demonstrating at Shakargarh border near Sialkot this afternoon in support of the Kashmiri freedom fighters. According to APP, the Indian Rangers opened fire on them, killing one person and injuring 12 others. The injured were admitted to Allama Iqbal Hospital, Sialkot.

Indian Envoy Summoned

*BK0602014290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0100 GMT 6 Feb 90*

[Text] Pakistan has asked the Indian high commissioner to inform his government (?immediately) that Pakistan has taken strong notice of the Indian forces' firing on unarmed Pakistani citizens north of Sialkot yesterday. Human lives were lost as a result of the incident and several people were injured.

The Indian high commissioner was summoned to the Foreign Office in Islamabad last night and was informed that under the present tense situation it is more imperative than ever to act with patience and restraint and to refrain from violence which could become a prelude to further serious incidents that neither side desires.

People Condemn 'Brutal Act'

*BK0602113290 Islamabad Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 6 Feb 90*

[Text] In Sialkot, the injured persons of yesterday's firing by the Indian forces at Pakistani unarmed civilians are recovering speedily. As many as 15 injured persons were admitted to hospital yesterday. Of them, two were shifted to Lahore. The sources said almost all the bullets have been removed from the bodies of various injured persons.

Meanwhile, people belonging to all walks of life have strongly condemned the brutal act of Indian forces in north of Sialkot, as a result of which one person was killed, while several others sustained injuries.

'Day of Solidarity' With Kashmiris Observed

*BK0502164190 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 5 Feb 90*

[Text] A day of solidarity with the people of occupied Kashmir was observed today throughout the country and in Azad Jammu and Kashmir. All business centers, markets, industrial units, educational institutions, and government and private offices remained closed. Public and private vehicles were not allowed on the roads.

Meetings and rallies were held and processions organized in support of the Kashmiri people.

Addressing the rallies, speakers strongly condemned the atrocities committed against the Muslims in occupied Kashmir. They demanded a plebiscite according to the UN resolutions on deciding the future of the disputed territory. According to reports received from across the country, leaders representing various opinions fully attended these meetings, rallies, and processions.

Meetings were held in Islamabad to express the deep sense of anger and anguish in connection with the atrocities committed against the Kashmiri people in Indian-occupied Kashmir. Speakers demanded that the Kashmiri people be given their right to self-determination and commended the Pakistan Government's firm and principled stand on the Kashmir issue.

The fedeeral minister for Kashmir affairs, Mr Mohammad Hanif Khan, addressing a meeting said that Pakistan is committed to its principled stand. He assured Pakistan's full support for the Kashmiri brethren's struggle to free themselves from the Indian occupation.

Prominent among those who expressed their solidarity with the Kashmiri people were the Azad Kashmir People's Party president, Sardar Muhammad Ibrahim Khan, and the deputy secretary general of the Pakistan People's Party [PPP], Prof M.D. Khan.

A rally sponsored by the Islamic Democratic Alliance [IDA] was held at Liaqat Bagh in Rawalpindi. The rally condemned the Indian Government's brutalities and repression of Kashmiri Muslims and expressed complete solidarity with the freedom fighters. The rally emphasized forging a complete unity and reaffirmed that the Pakistani people are with the Kashmiri people in their just struggle. Those who addressed the rally were IDA Secretary General Prof Ghafoor Ahmad, Senator Mahmud Ahmad Minto, National Assembly members Sheikh Rashdid Ahmad and Raja Zahir Ahmad, and the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front president, Mr Amanullah Khan. Later, a procession was organized and prayers were offered for the martyrs of the movement for the liberation of Kashmir.

A number of public meetings and rallies were held and processions were organized in Lahore. Prominent speakers, including the chief of Jammat-i-Islami, Senator Kazi Hussain Ahmad, addressed a large procession. They said the entire nation is united as one on the Kashmir issue. They also announced the establishment of a Kashmir fund to help the Kashmir freedom fighters. A number of processions were organized in Karachi. People were carrying banners and placards demanding the liberation of occupied Kashmir and asking the world community, especially the Islamic states, to support the Kashmiri freedom fighters.

In Peshawar, four separate processions were organized by the PPP, the IDA, the Northwest Frontier Province People-Workers Federation, and the All Pakistan Labor Federation-Durani Group, which expressed solidarity with the Kashmiri brethren. The speakers assured full support to the Kashmiri people and hoped that they would succeed in their just struggle. Later, several demonstrations were held.

In Quetta, various groups demonstrated and organized processions. The Baluchistan branch of the All Pakistan Federation of Trade Unions at its meeting appealed to the International Labor Organization to protect the workers' interests in occupied Kashmir.

The day of solidarity was also observed in Hyderabad, Khairpur, Bahawalpur, Multan, D.G. Khan, Faisalabad, Sargodha, Jhang, Hazara, Banu, Gilgit, Skardu, and other towns in Pakistan and Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

A number of processions were organized in Muzaffarabad. They were attended by people representing all walks of life. The speaker of the Azad Kashmir legislative assembly, Sardar Mohammad Ayub Khan, speaking on the occasion appealed to the United Nations to implement its resolutions on Kashmir. The leader of the opposition in the assembly, Major General Mohammad Hayat Khan, retired, asked the Pakistani Government to intensify its efforts at the diplomatic level to inform the world community about the background of the Kashmir issue. The assembly speaker and the leader of the opposition presented memorandums to the UN observers demanding that the UN resolutions on Kashmir be implemented.

Public meetings were held in Rawalakot, Mirpur, Kotli, Bagh, and other towns and cities of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

Politicians Urge World Support for Kashmiris

BK0502170590 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] The National Assembly, which began its session in Islamabad this afternoon, took up discussion on the Kashmir issue with reference to the recent uprising of Muslims in occupied Kashmir and Indian repression. The motion for debate was moved by Mr Ghulam Haider Wyne of the opposition.

Opening the debate, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan of the PDP [Pakistan Democratic Party] called upon the government to mobilize all its resources to muster support of the international community for securing the right of self-determination of the people of Kashmir. He also called for convening an emergency Islamic summit on Kashmir.

The minister of state for science and technology, Mr Javed Jabbar, said the federal government would effectively formulate a policy to tackle the Kashmir issue.

Sayeeda Abida Hussain, independent, urged for what she called a more courageous and strong stand. She called for examining global options over Kashmir and seeking a diplomatic solution.

The minister of state for parliamentary affairs, Dr Sher Afghan Niazi, assured the house of Pakistan's strong moral support to the Kashmiri people's struggle. He pointed out that the uprising in occupied Kashmir is entirely indigenous and had been triggered by Indian atrocities and the denial of the right of self-determination of the people of Kashmir. He vehemently refuted attempts to project the Kashmiris' liberation struggle as instigated by Pakistan. He made it clear that Pakistan stands by its commitment to secure the Kashmiris' right to self-determination.

The parliamentary group of the Pakistan People's Party at its meeting in Islamabad today adopted resolutions condemning atrocities of Indian forces against Muslims in occupied Kashmir and demanded an immediate end of Indian oppression. The chairperson of the party, Begum Nusrat Bhutto, presided over the meeting.

The leader of the Combined Opposition Parties, Mr Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, has urged the government to take up Kashmir issue firmly at international forums. He told a news conference in Islamabad today that despite differences on certain matters, the opposition has stood united behind the government in all its efforts to deal with the Kashmir issue.

Army Chief Discusses 'New Challenges' in Kashmir

BK0502154890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1512 GMT 5 Feb 90

[Text] The chief of army staff, Mirza Aslam Beg, today inspected various formations and units in Kotli, Bagh, and Pir in Muzaffarabad sector. Addressing officers and soldiers in these formations and units, the army chief of staff said that due to changing political situation in occupied Kashmir, some new aspects regarding the security at the line of control have come to light. The security threats have been further aggravated due to open threats by the most responsible persons from across the border.

The army chief of staff said that serious notice should be taken of such threats, and full preparedness and alert is warranted for the defense of the borders of our dear motherland.

Referring to the movement started by the Kashmiri people in Indian occupied Kashmir and the deteriorating situation in valley, he emphasized that the situation demands that we remain prepared with our full capabilities to foil the aggression and crush the [word indistinct]. He added that the Pakistan Army is fully capable of discharging its duty and is fully equipped to fulfill demands of the national defense.

General Beg said that new challenges have been created due to the changing situation in Kashmir which have brought new responsibilities for us. We will, God willing, be prepared for this and discharge our duties with full professional dedication.

Commenting on the protest day observed to express the entire nation's solidarity with the Kashmiri people, he said such national solidarity is a great weapon for the the Armed Forces to crush aggression.

Official Urges 'Due Caution' on Kashmir Issue

BK0602094190 Lahore THE NATION in English 6 Feb 90 p 1

[Text] Lahore—The Minister of State for Defence, Col. (Retd) Ghulam Sarwar Cheema, on Monday said that the Army will never neglect its responsibility of defending the country and it is capable of facing any challenge.

Inaugurating a two-day seminar on "Defence and Media" organised by the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) here at a local hotel this afternoon, he said that the Army was fully aware of its responsibilities.

He said that Kashmir issue was one of the important issues in the present circumstances and without Kashmir, Pakistan is incomplete. He said that the Pakistanis were with the Kashmiris living either in Azad Kashmir or in Occupied Kashmir.

He said that the Kashmir issue was directly concerned with every Pakistani and this issue could not be isolated from them. He said that the Government would take into confidence everyone on the issue of Kashmir. He added that there was complete consensus among all the politicans on this issue at the meeting held in Islamabad on Sunday.

He said that in the present circumstances every step in connection with Kashmir had to be taken with great care and there was need to proceed with due caution.

Envoy Stresses Kashmir Policy at Geneva Session

BK0602031890 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Feb 90

[Text] Pakistan will not deviate from its principles, nor will it make any compromise on the basic rights of Kashmiris, including their right to self-determination. This was stated by a Pakistani envoy at the Human Rights Commission session in Geneva yesterday. He said that Pakistan adheres to the Simla Agreement and wants a peaceful solution of the Kashmir dispute.

He called totally baseless the allegations of Pakistan's interference in the ongoing movement in occupied Kashmir and said that this is part of India's efforts to divert attention from its military action against this real movement. He said that journalists from foreign countries, apart from India, have rejected the allegations of Pakistan's involvement. Makhdum Hukumuddin stressed that the Kashmir issue does exist and that Pakistan is a party to it. This was supported by UN resolutions, and conducting a plebiscite under UN supervision was suggested. However, initially agreeing to hold the plebiscite, India deliberately opposed it later and obstructed conducting any plebiscite. He said the Simla Agreement also acknowledges that a final solution to the dispute is still pending.